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(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR EFFICIENT CUSTOMER AND CONTAINER ON-PROPERTY SERVICE BASED ON COLLECTION OF OFF-STREET DATA FOR A WASTE / RECYCLING SERVICE VEHICLE**

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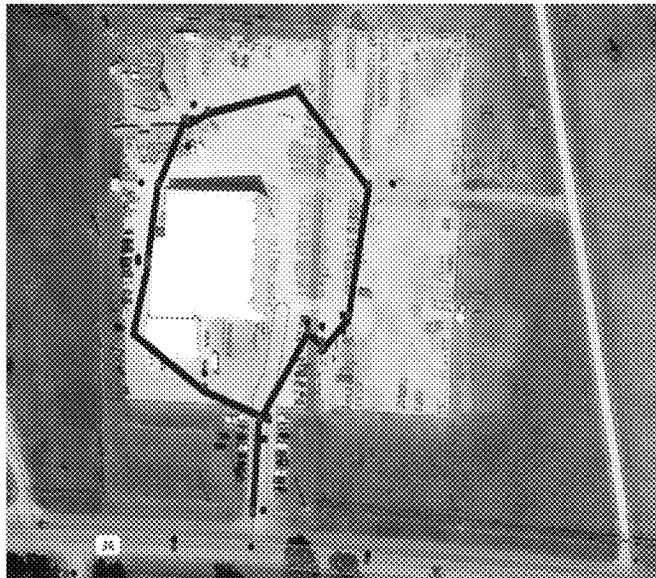
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A system and method for vehicle drive path analysis for a waste/recycling service vehicle are provided. The system and method can enable identifying of container locations at an off-site location for waste and recycling collection routes using vehicle drive path analysis. In particular, a method is provided for collecting off street data to enable providing navigation assistance and special instructions to a waste or recycling service vehicle on a service route for a commercial customer property.

11 Claims, 29 Drawing Sheets



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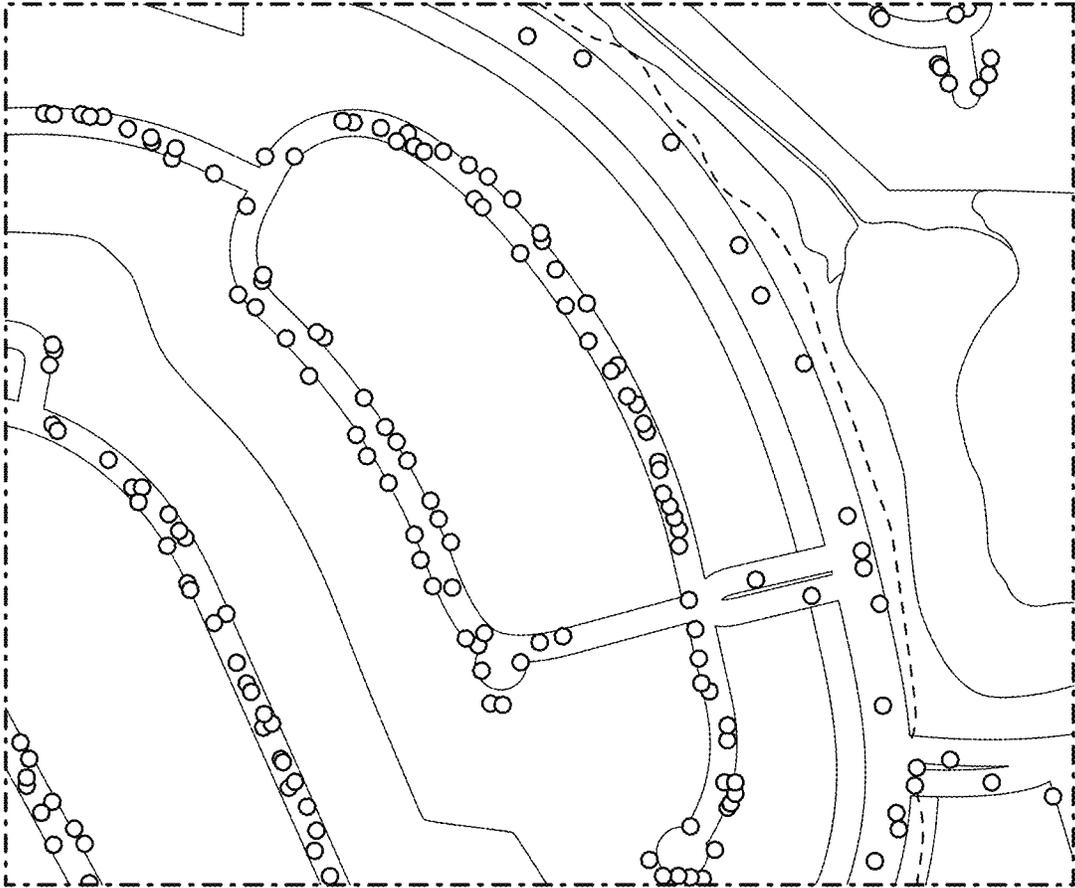


FIG. 1A

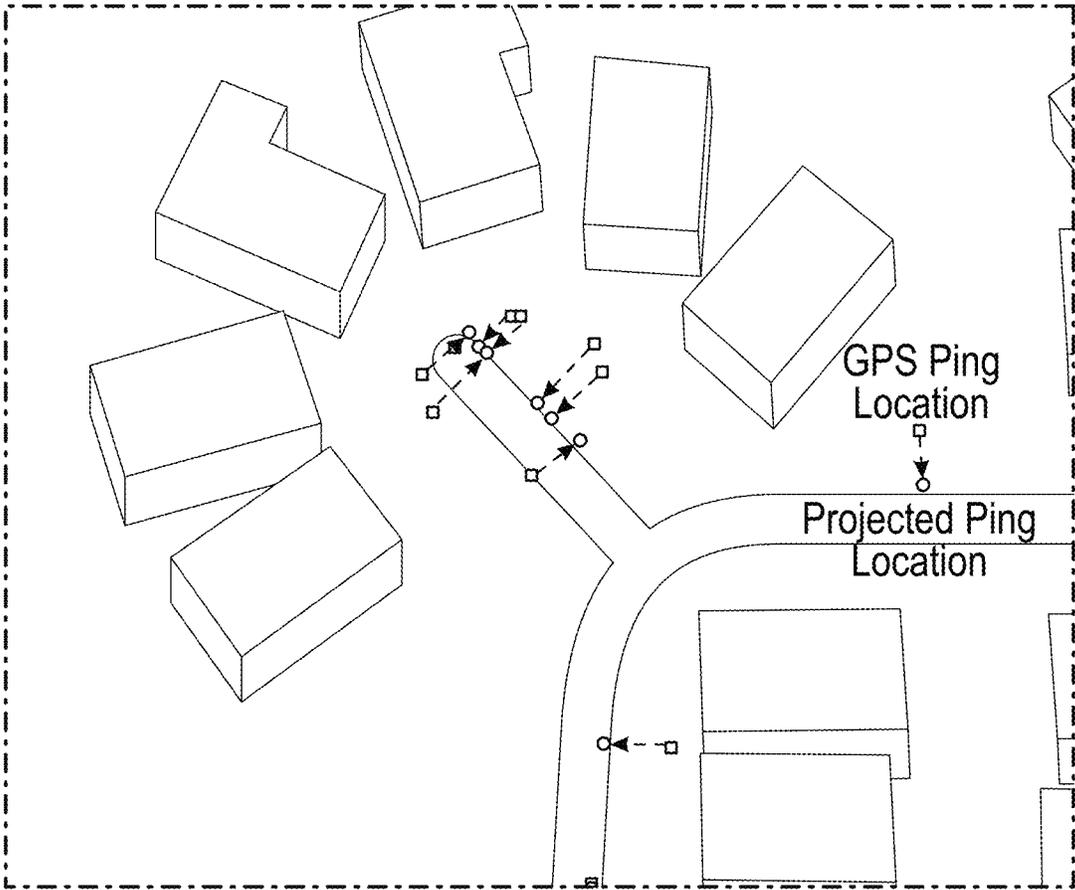


FIG. 1B

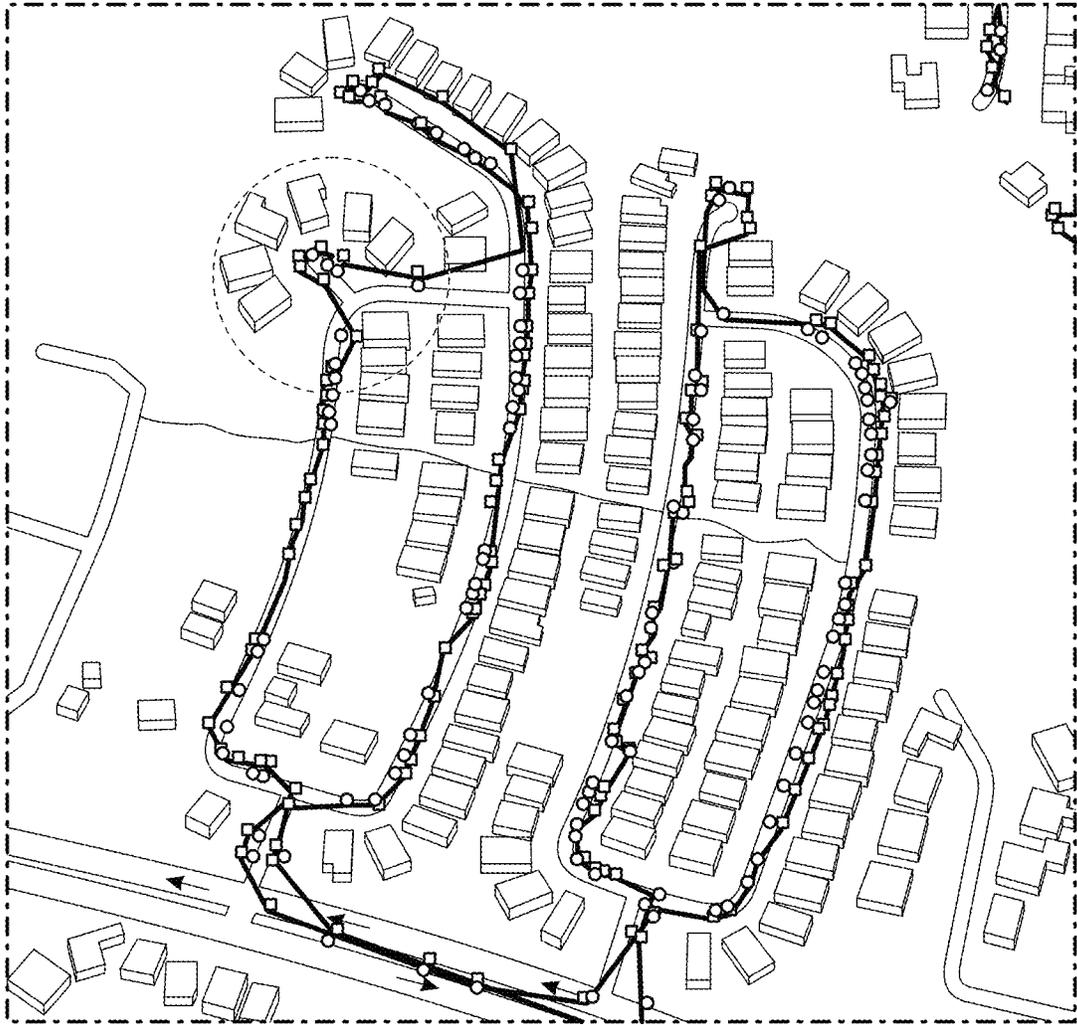


FIG. 2

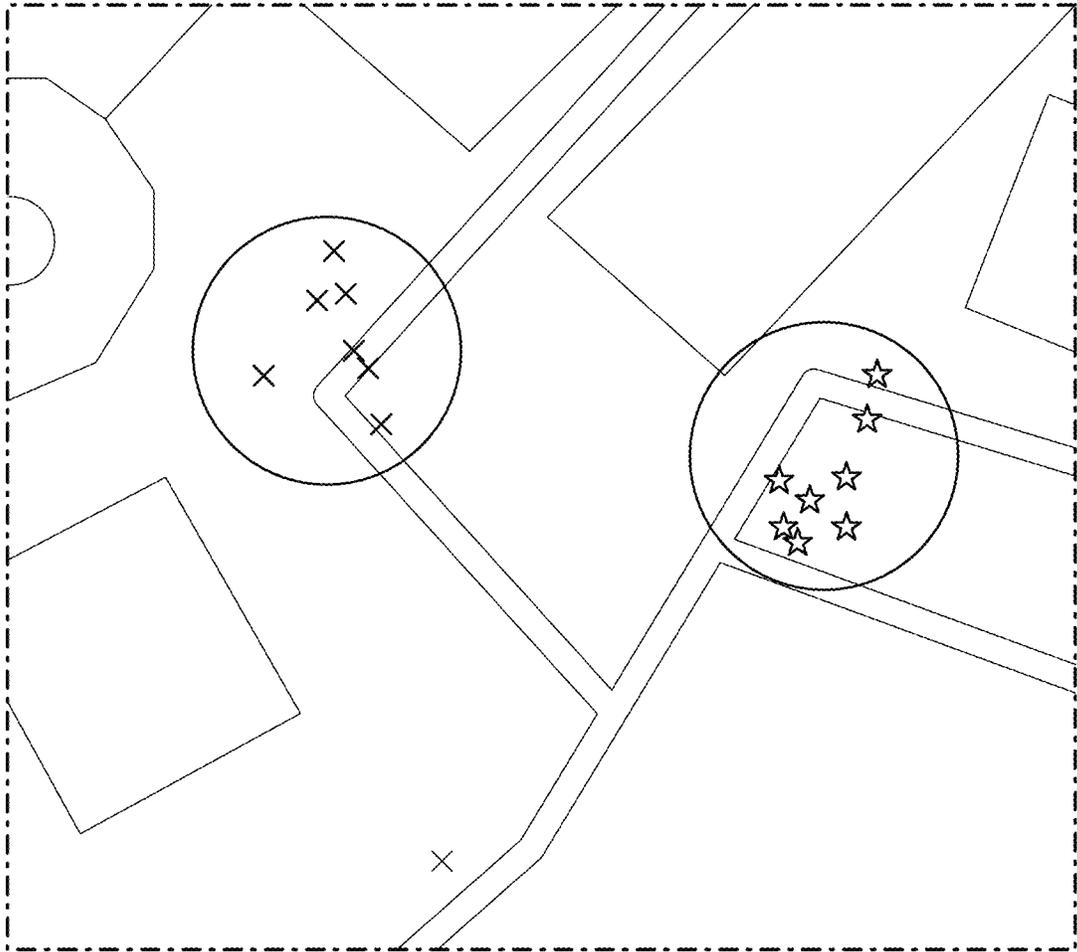


FIG. 3A



FIG. 3B

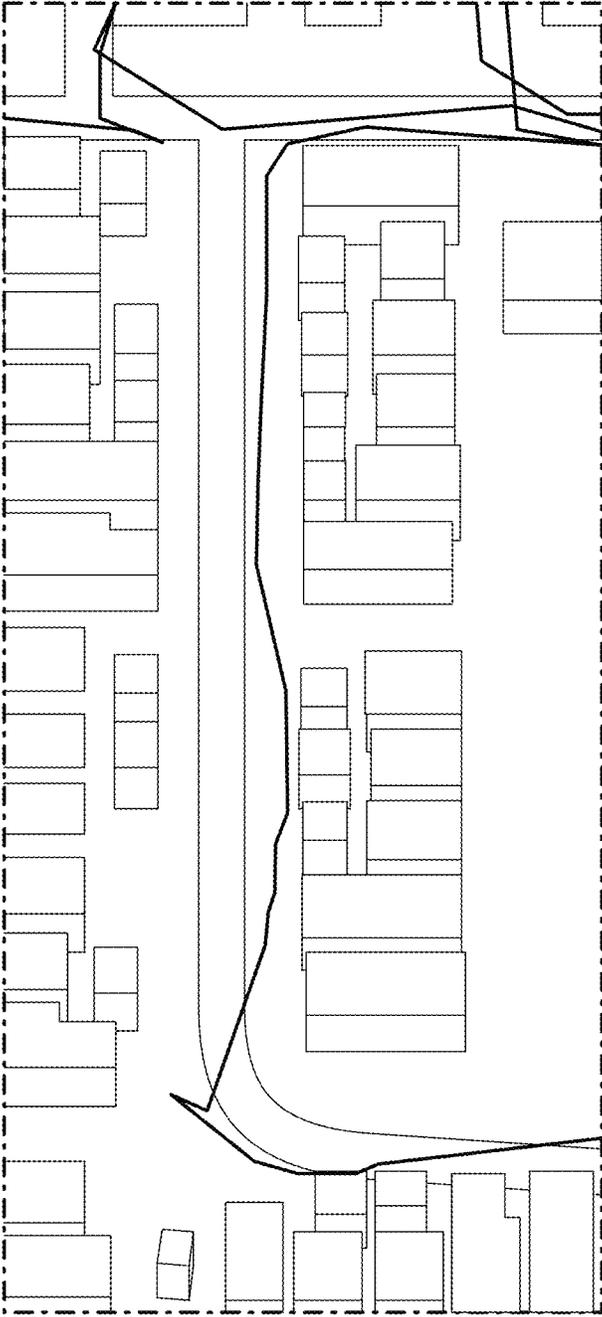


FIG. 4

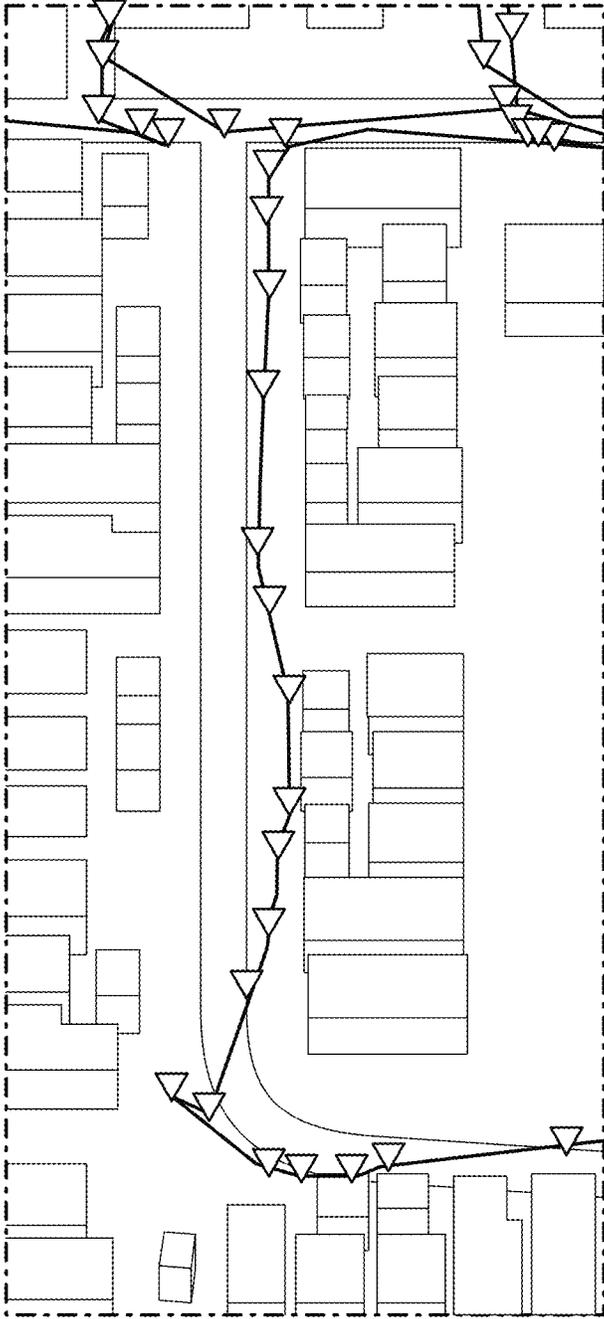


FIG. 5

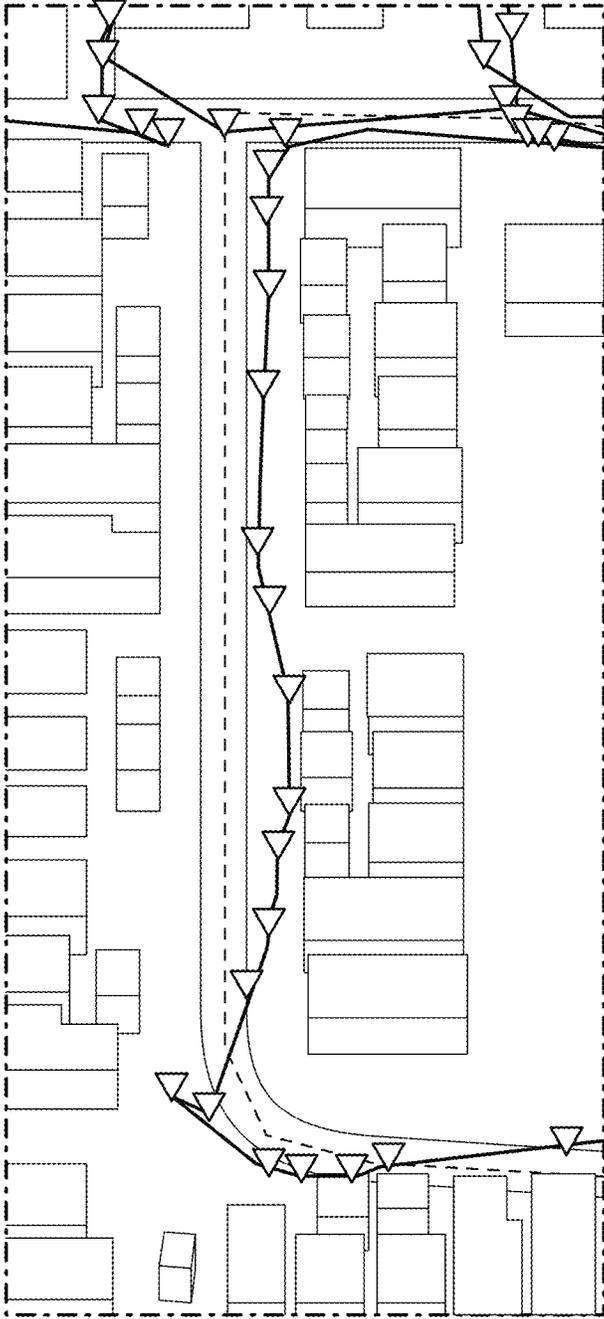


FIG. 6

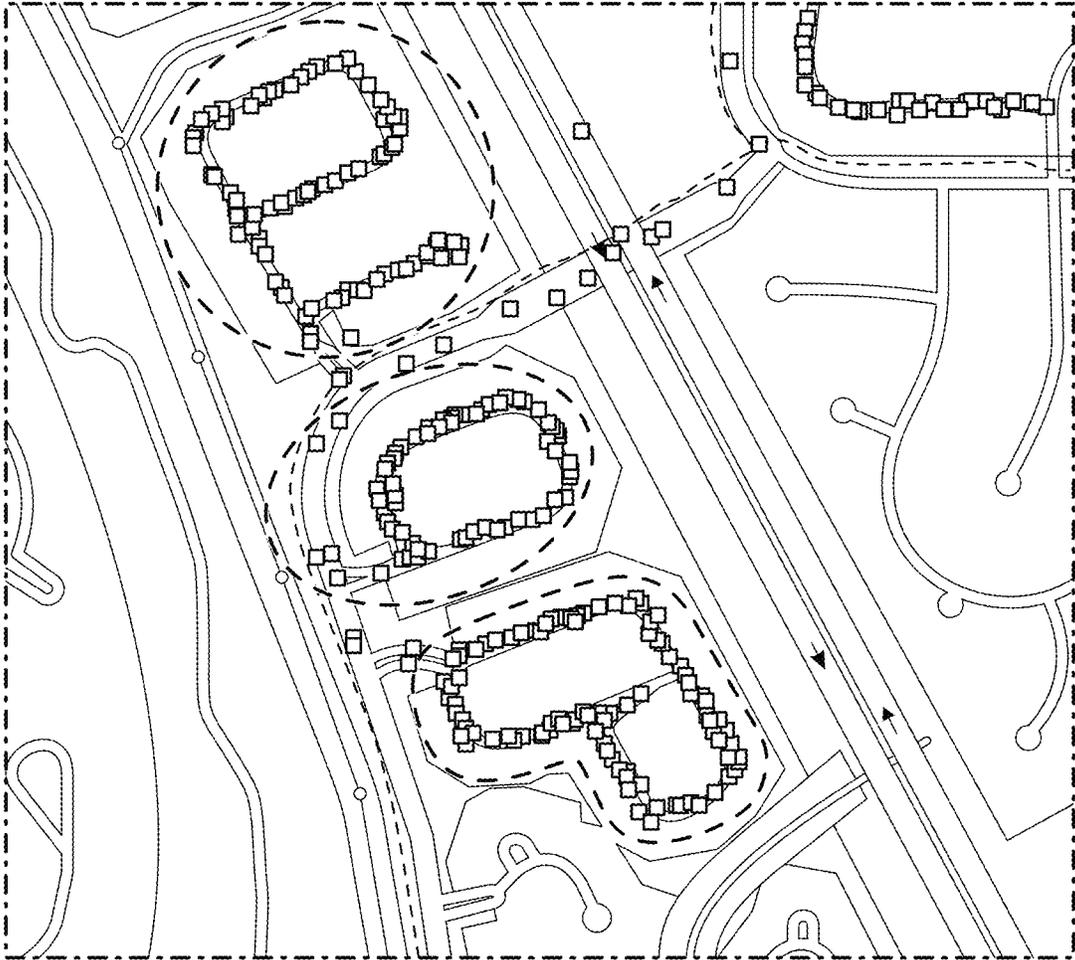


FIG. 7

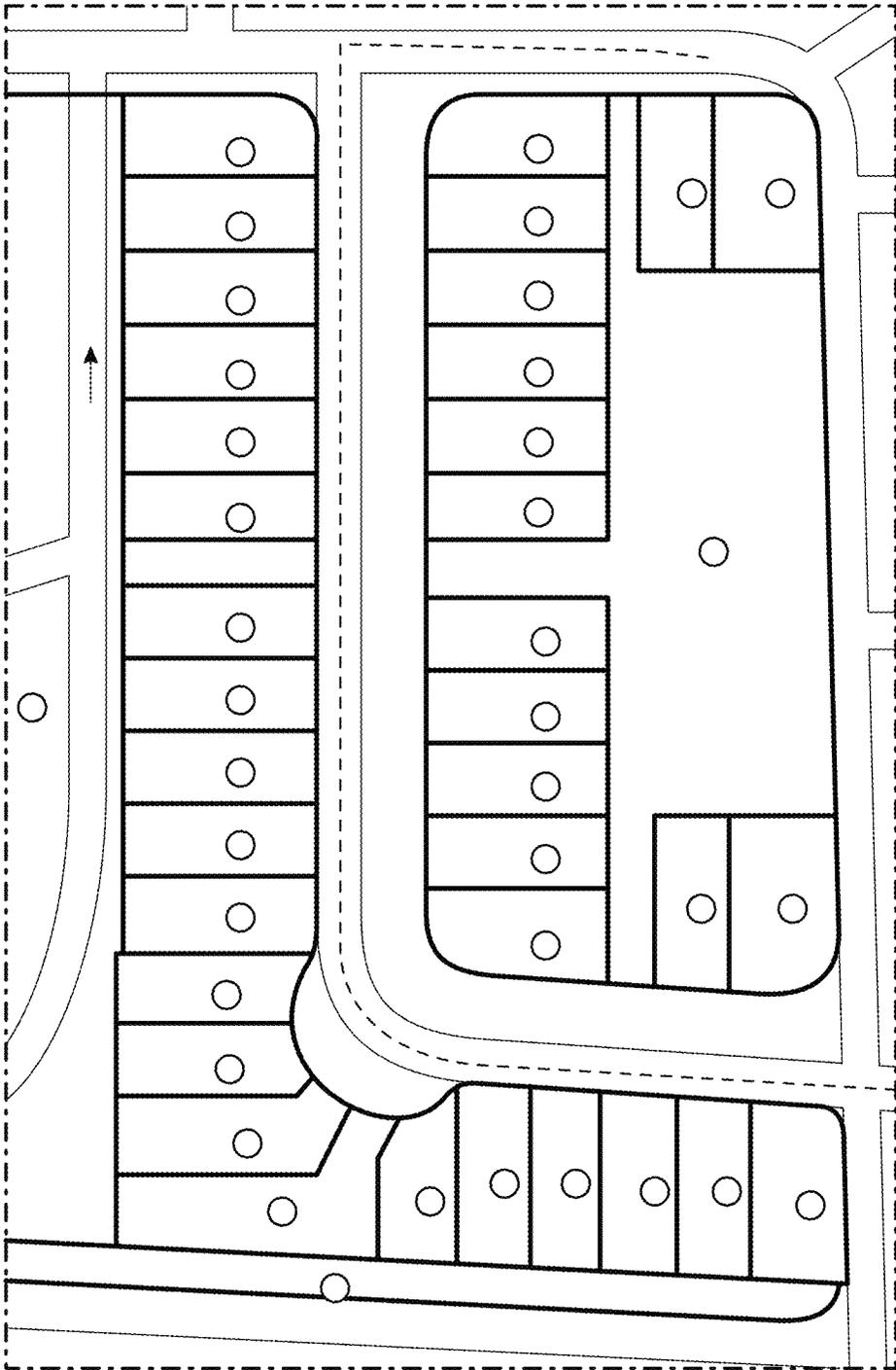


FIG. 8

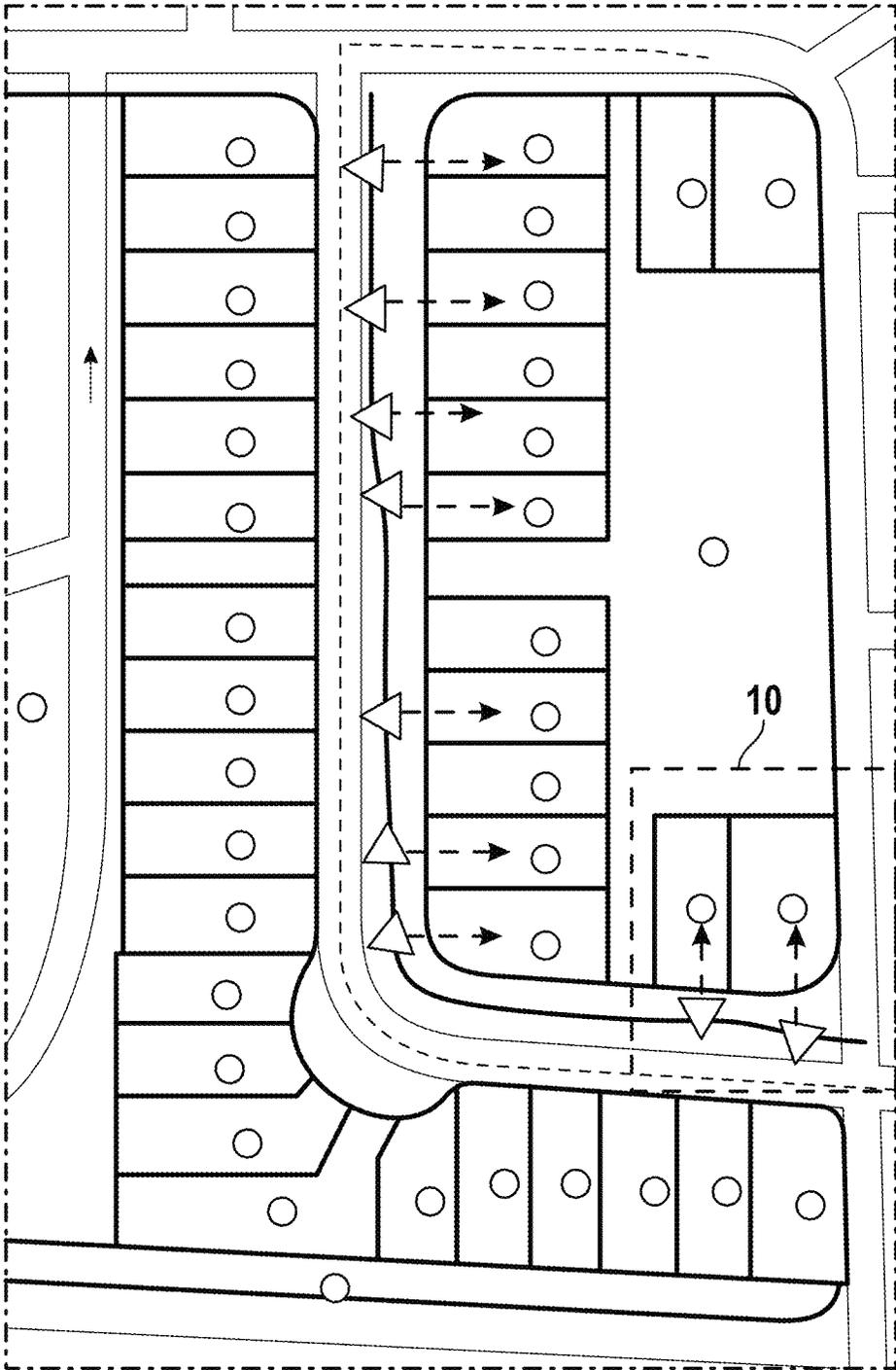


FIG. 9

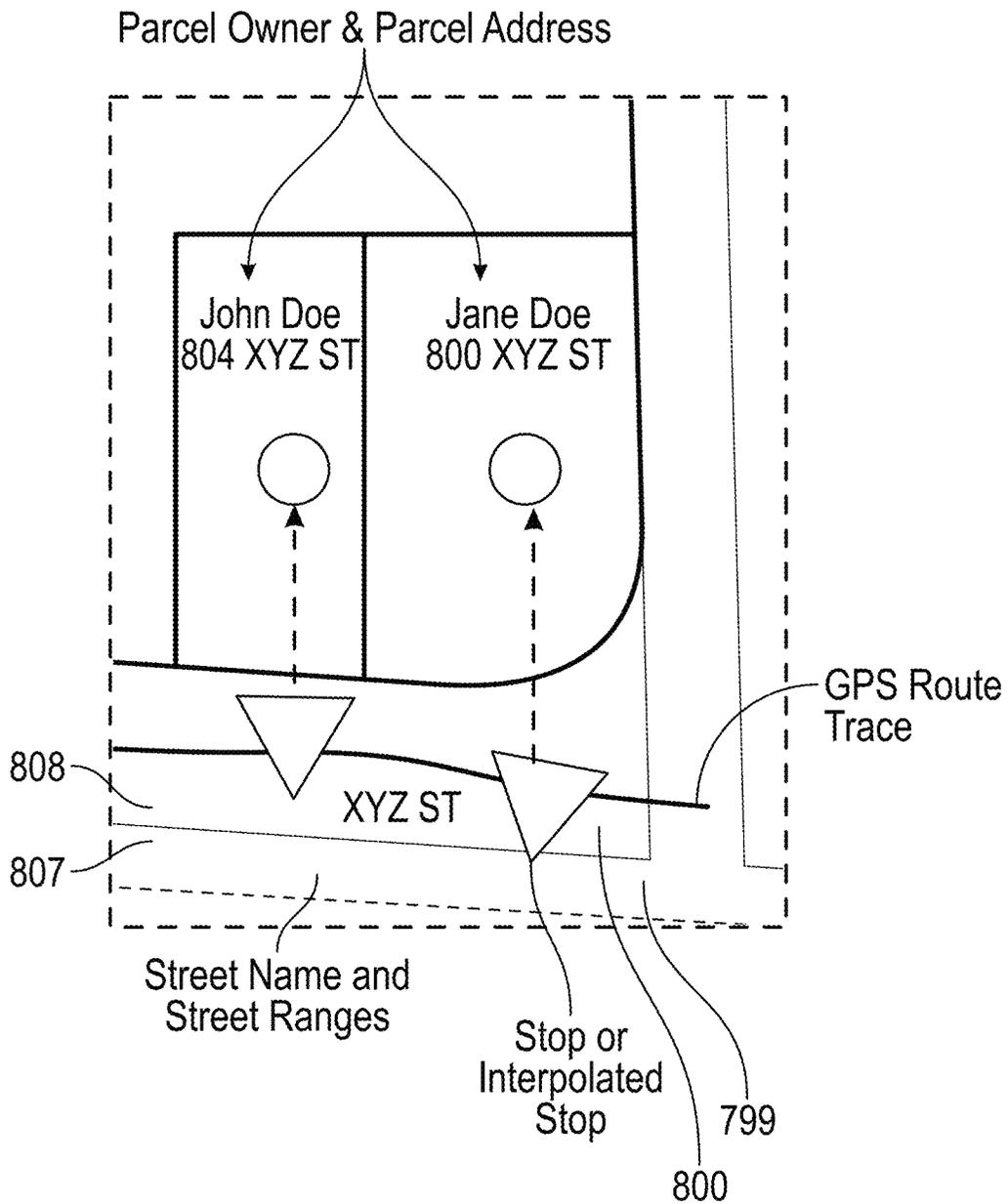


FIG. 10

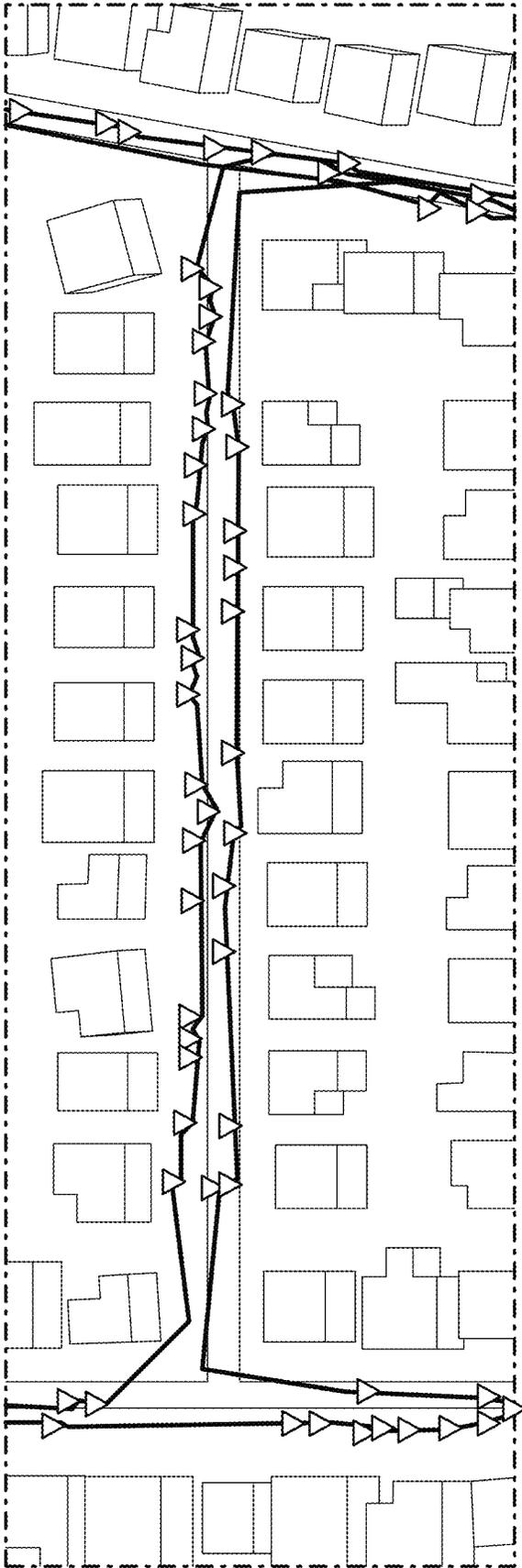


FIG. 12

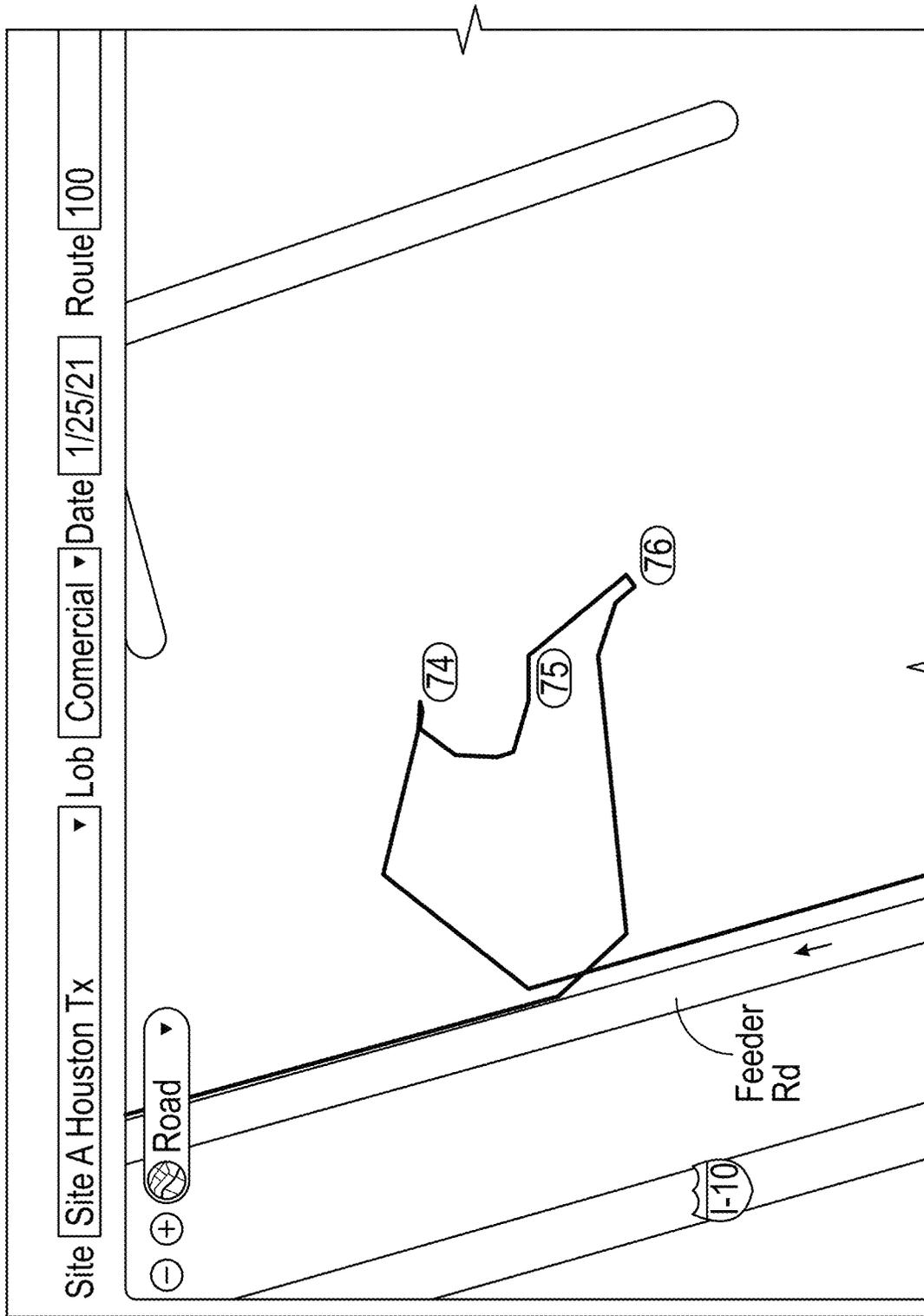


FIG. 13

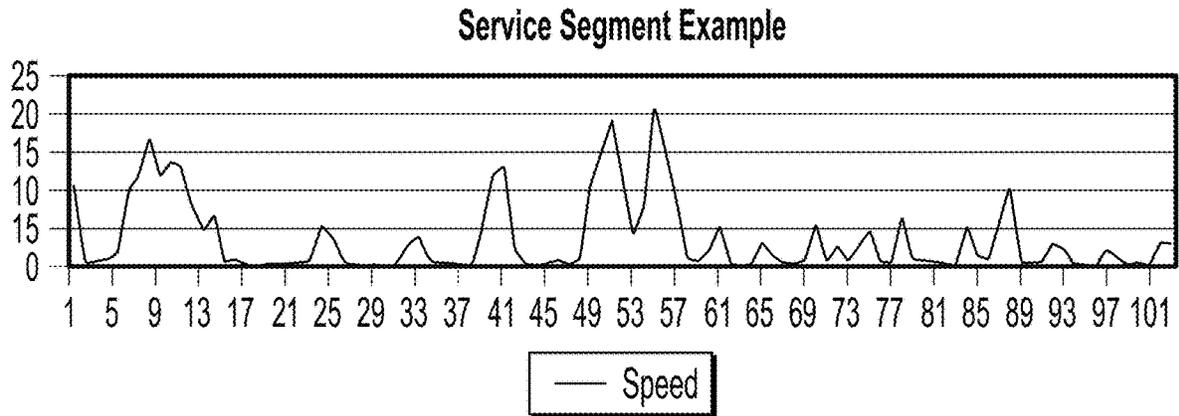


FIG. 14

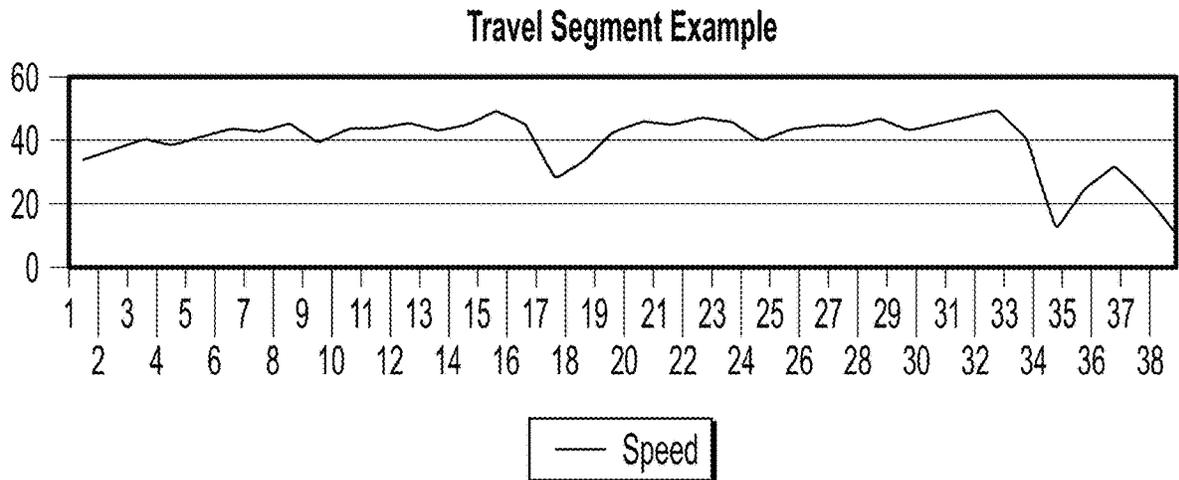


FIG. 15

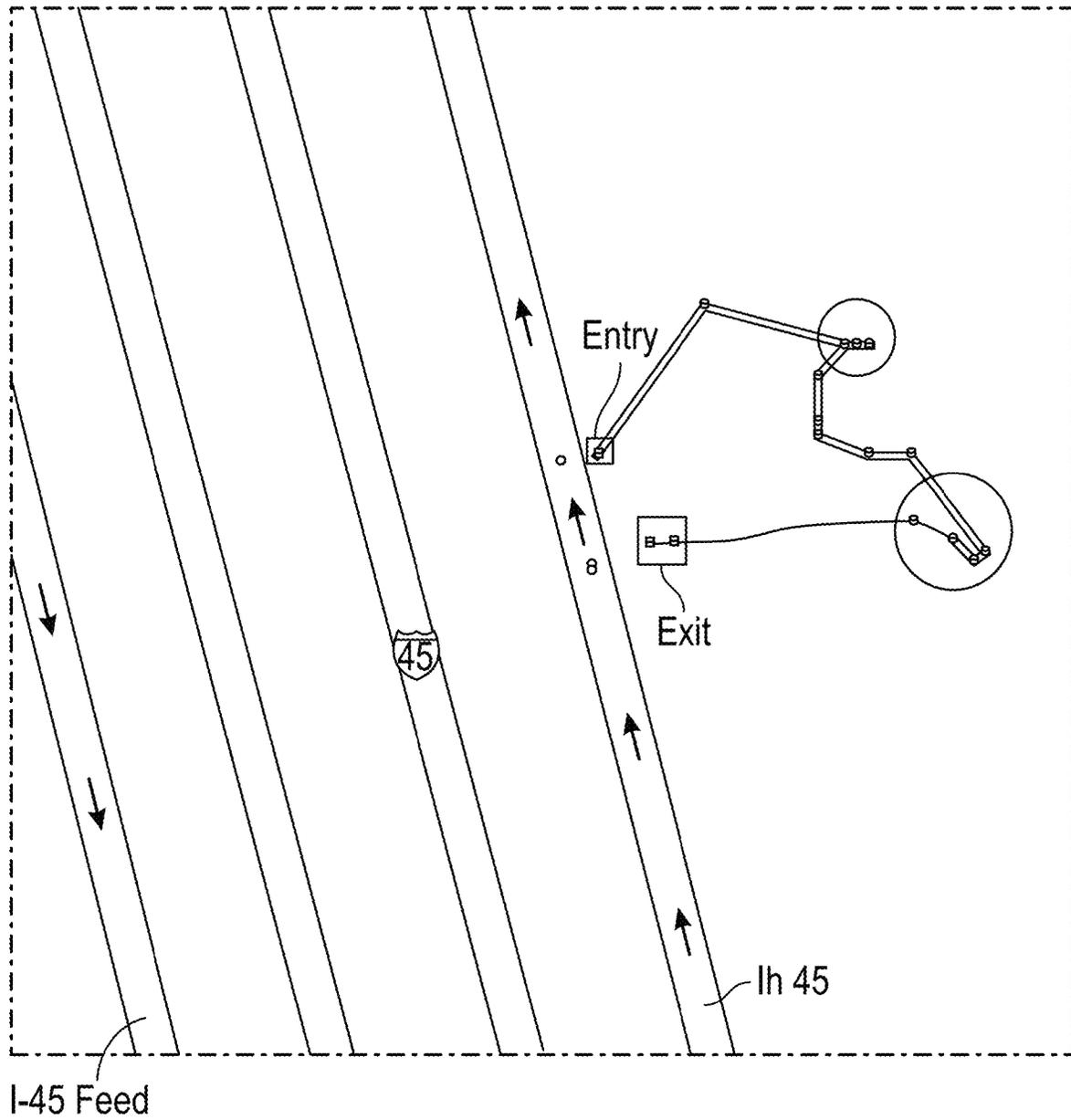


FIG. 16

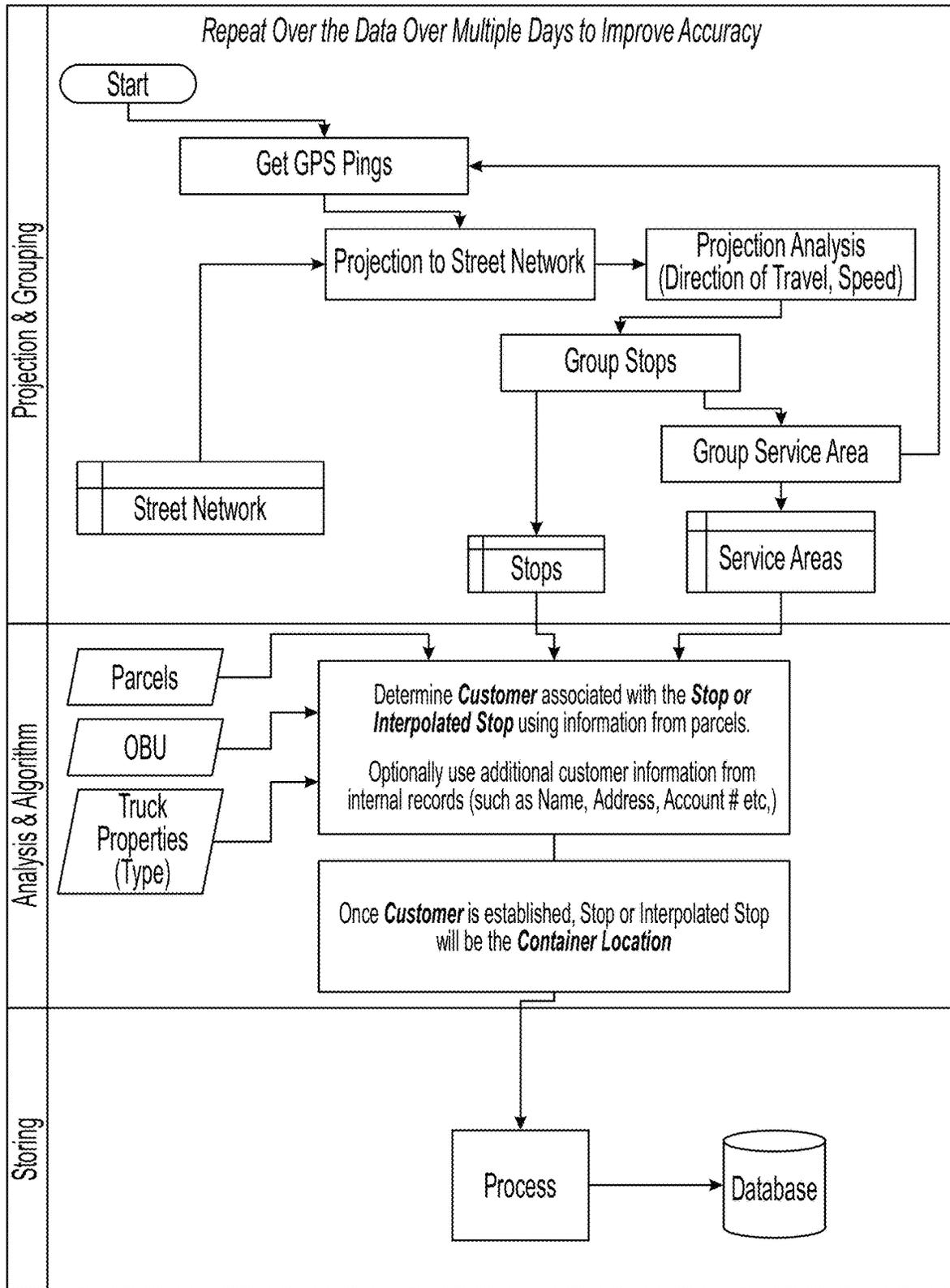


FIG. 17

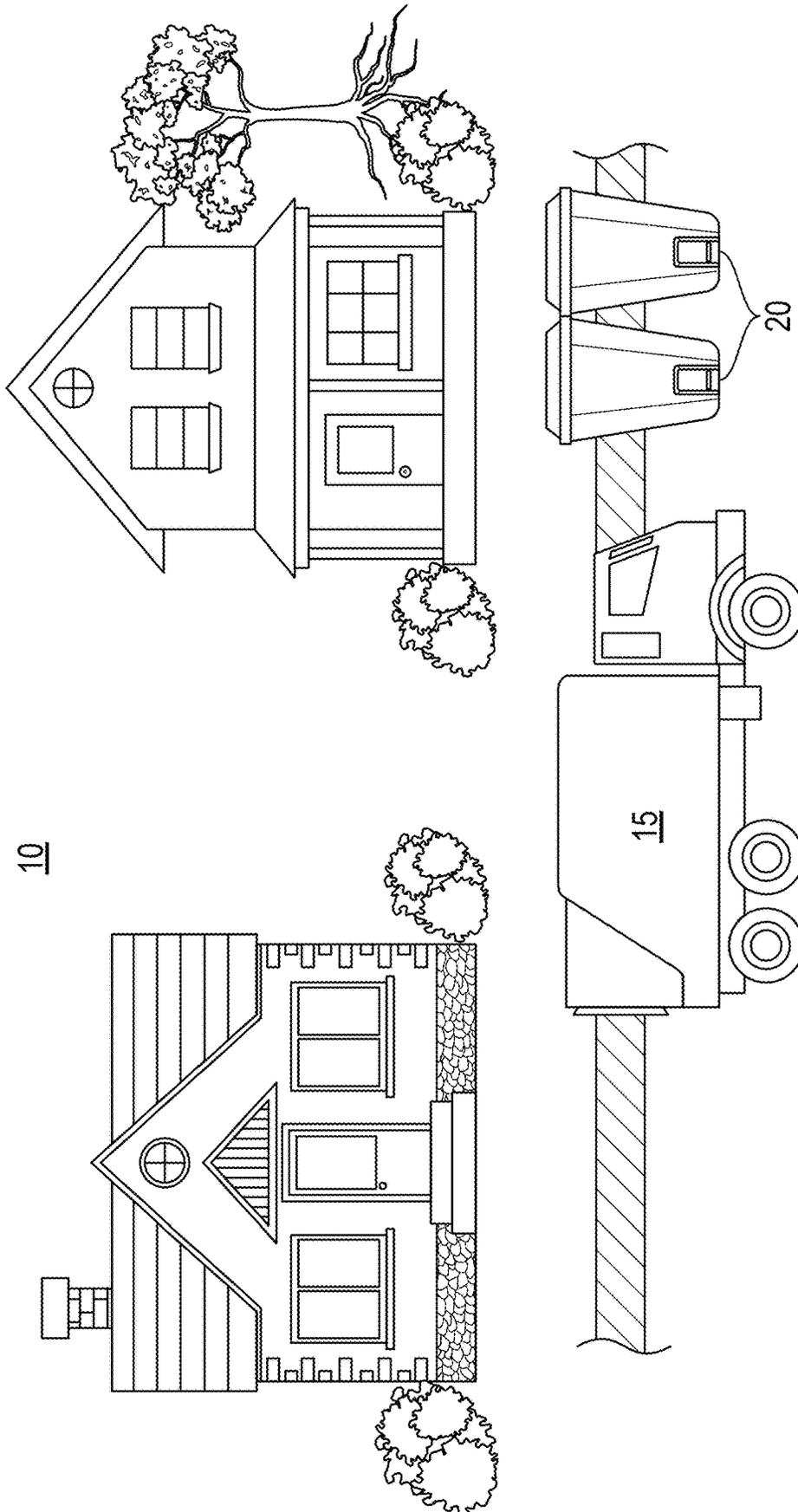


FIG. 18

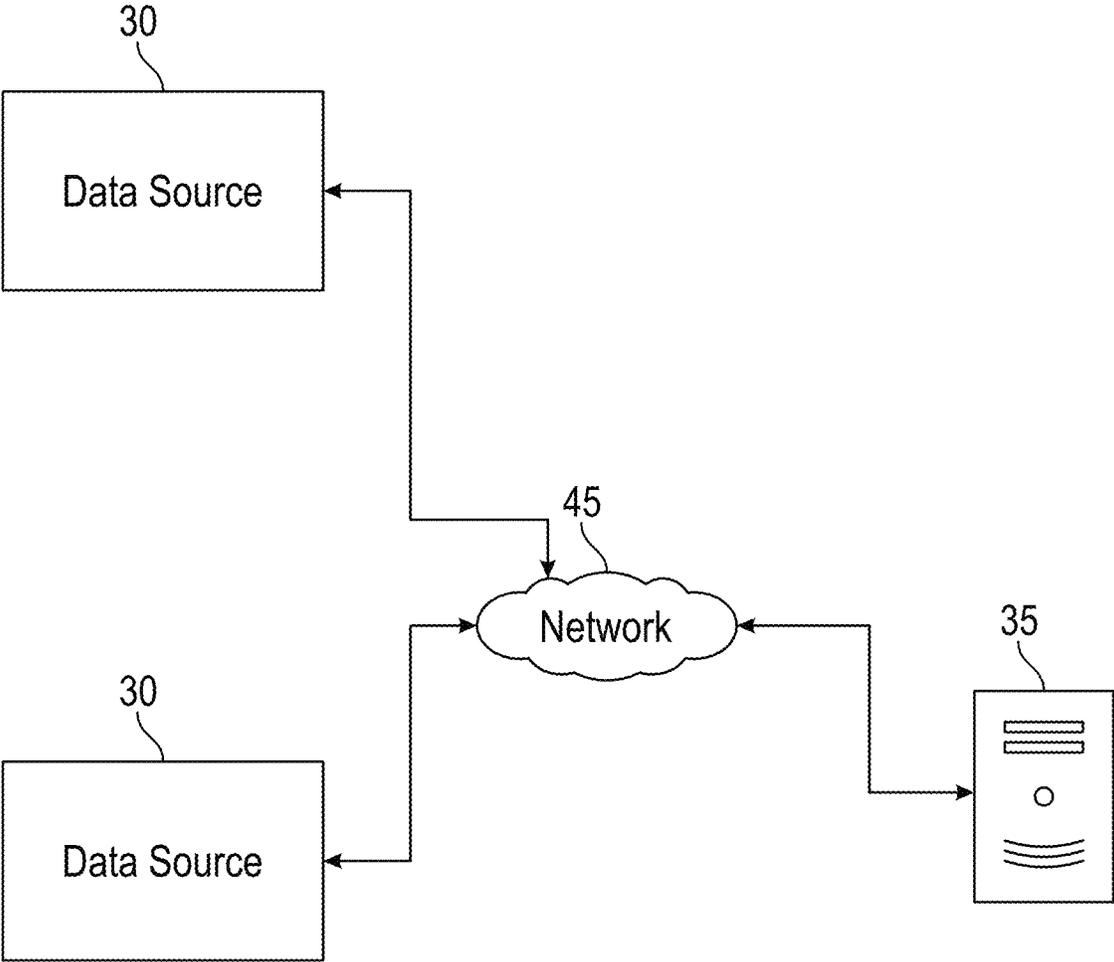


FIG. 19

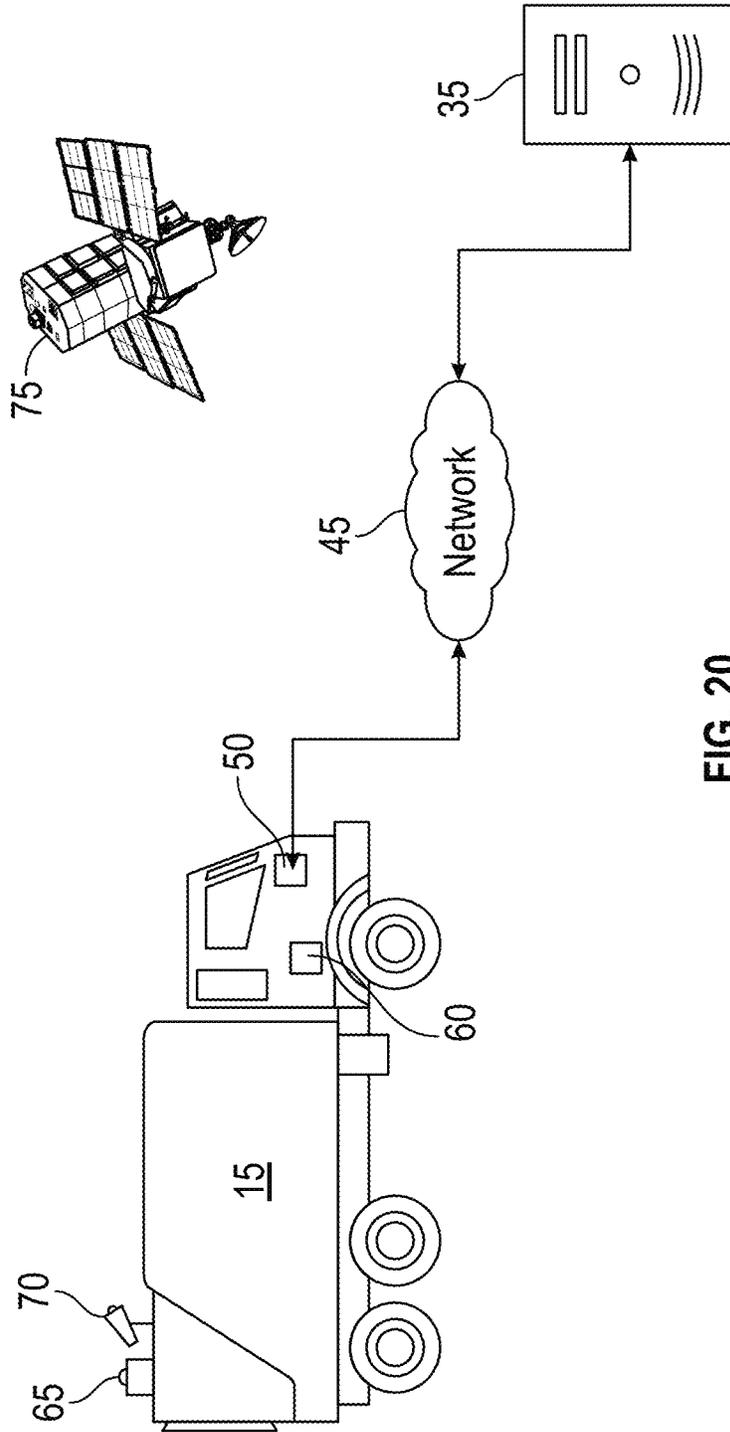


FIG. 20

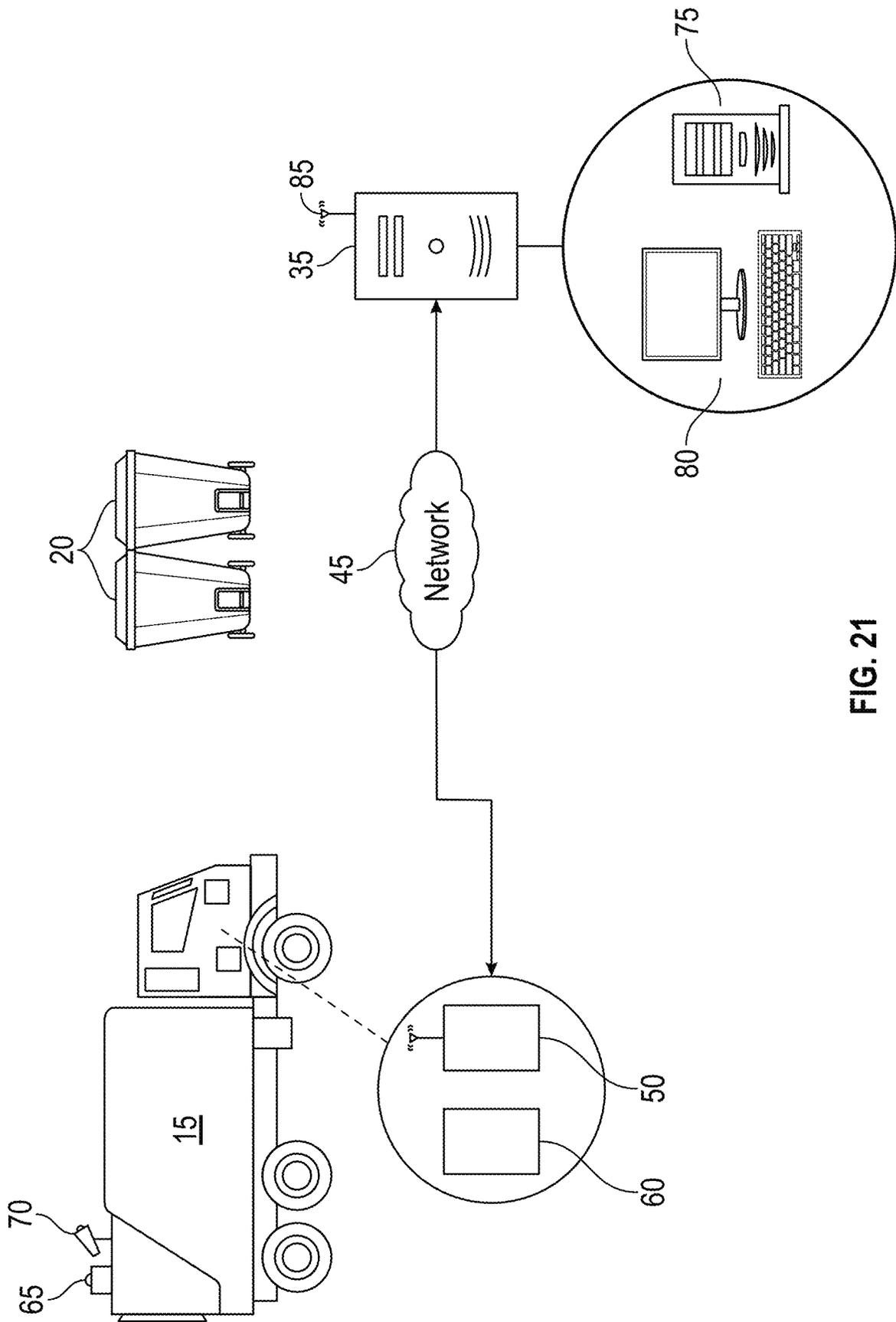


FIG. 21

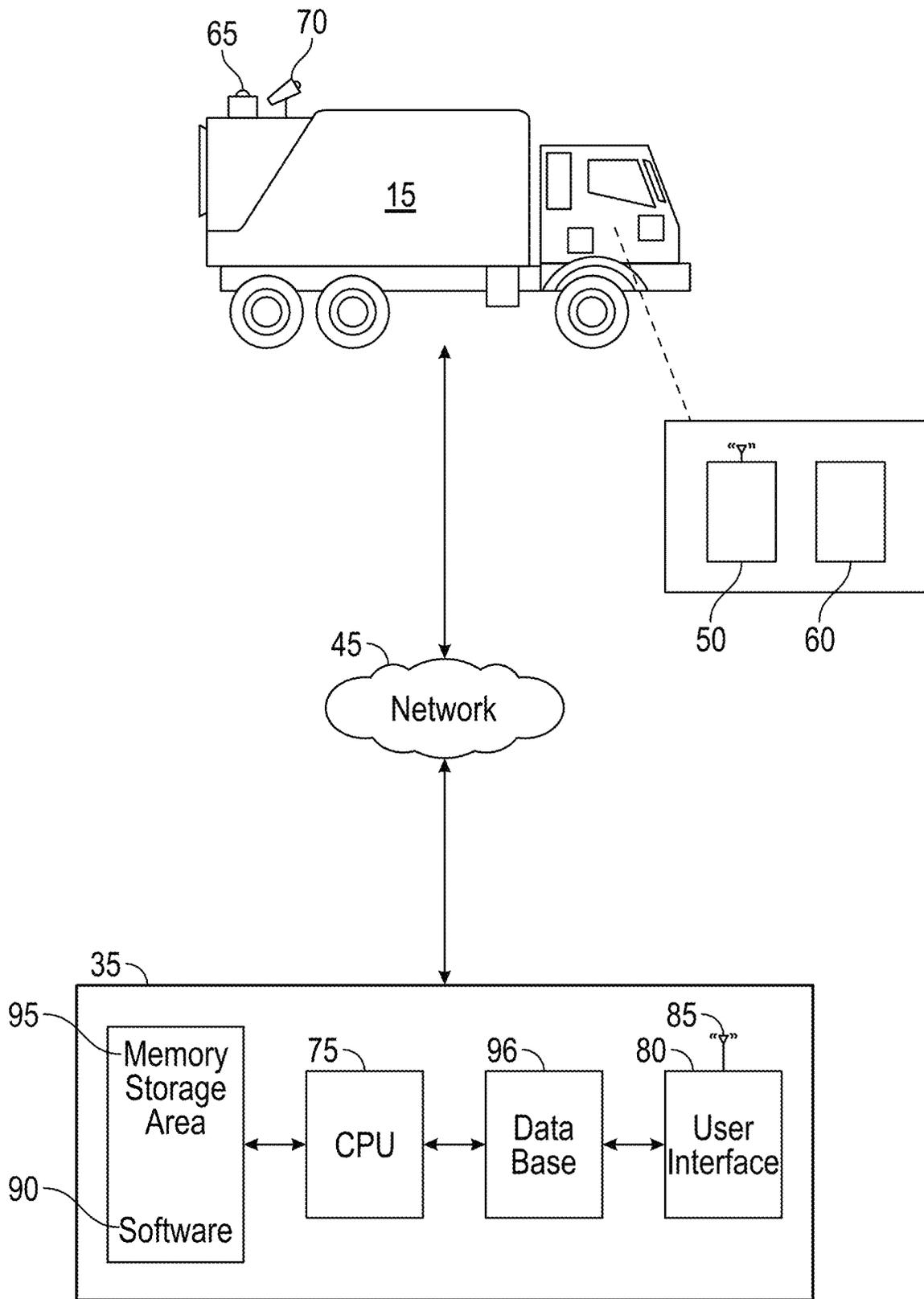


FIG. 22

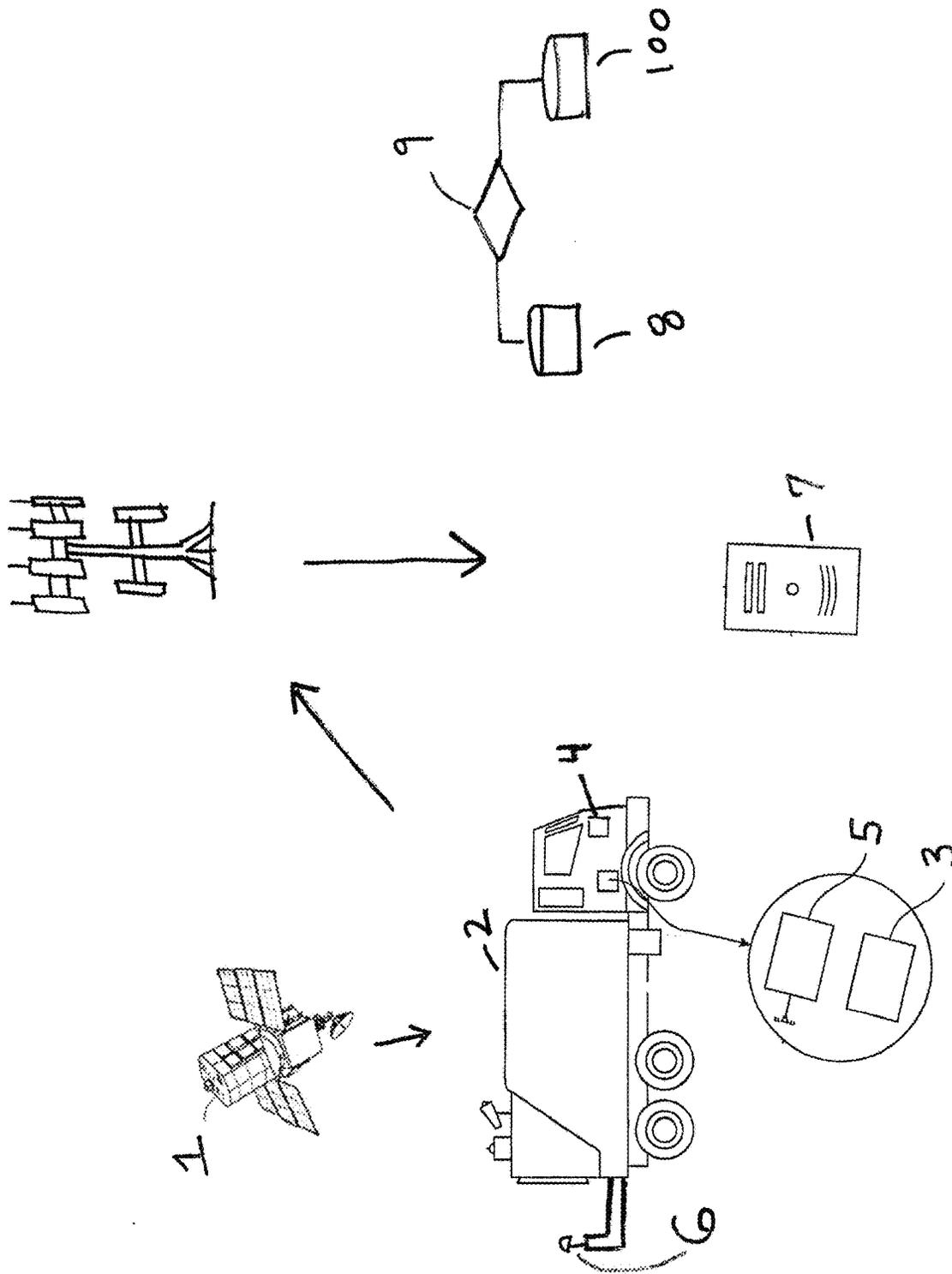


FIG. 23

FIG. 24

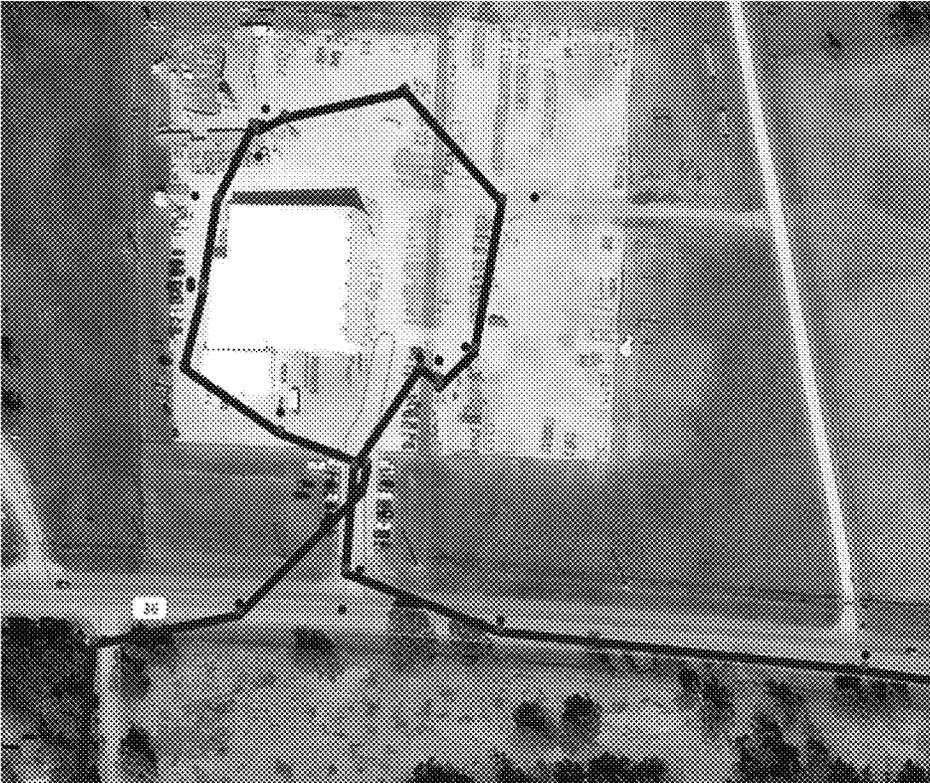


FIG. 25



FIG. 26

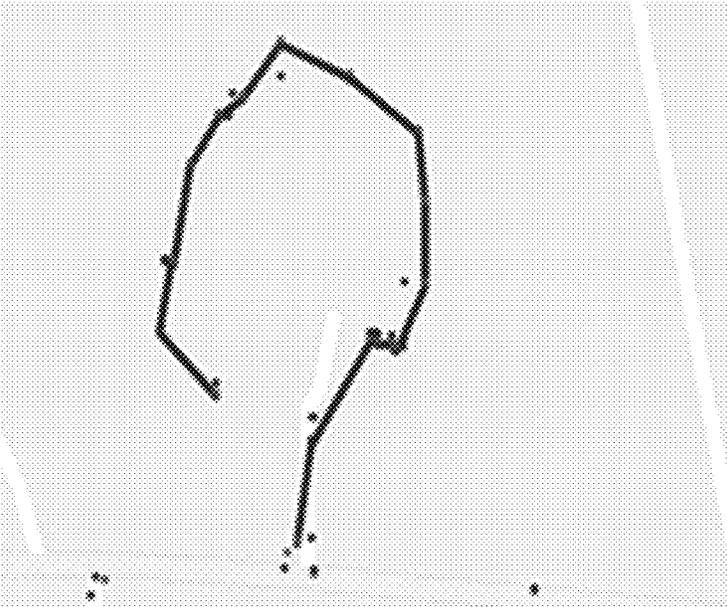


FIG. 27

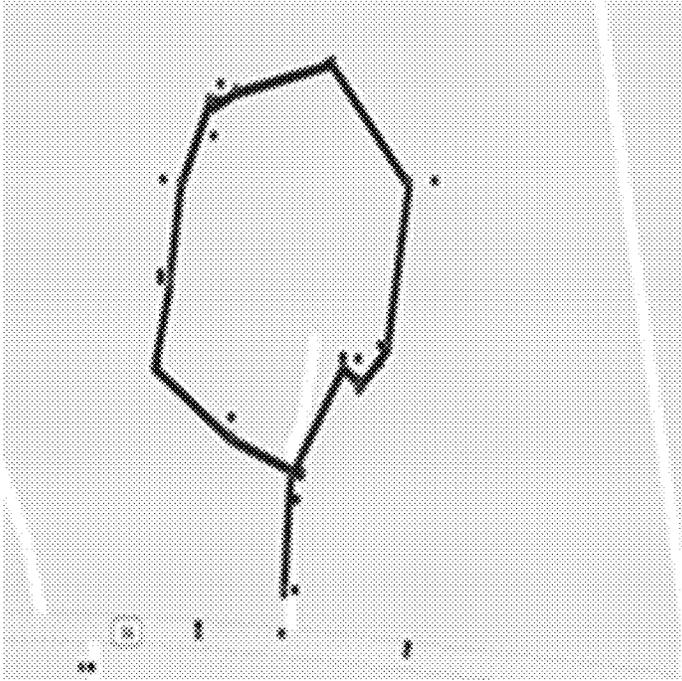
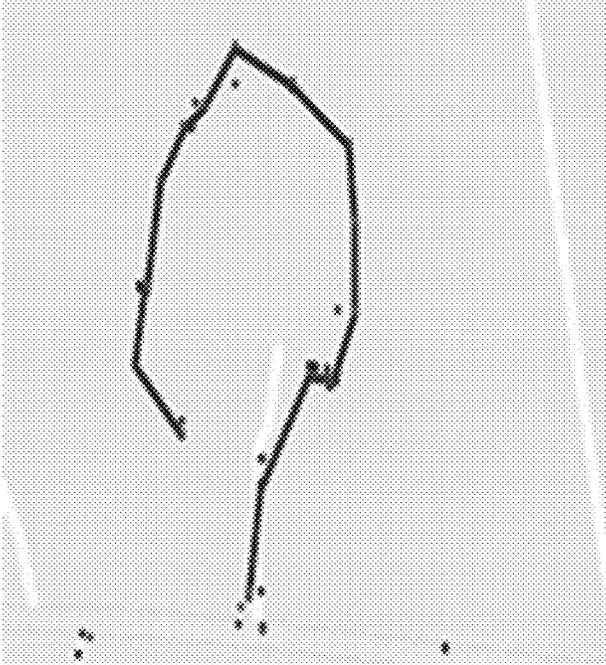


FIG. 28



1

**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR EFFICIENT
CUSTOMER AND CONTAINER
ON-PROPERTY SERVICE BASED ON
COLLECTION OF OFF-STREET DATA FOR
A WASTE / RECYCLING SERVICE VEHICLE**

BACKGROUND

1. Related Application

This application claims the benefit, and priority benefit, of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 63/274,695, filed Nov. 2, 2021, the disclosure and contents of which are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.

2. Field of Invention

The presently disclosed subject matter relates generally to vehicle drive path analysis for waste/recycling service vehicles.

3. Description of the Related Art

Waste/recycling service providers manage multiple routes each day across various lines of business including commercial, roll off and residential. Depending on the line of business, a particular route can have tens, hundreds or even thousands of customers that require service. The ability of a service provider to know or detect customer locations and service and/or container locations is important for the waste/recycling business. It allows for planning of routes and resources, as well as providing superior customer experience, service and support. In addition, service audits and confirmations can be established to aid the provider in preventing revenue leakage.

Well known approaches for detection of customer and/or container locations for waste and recycling operations include manual logging/actions for services by vehicle drivers, modifications to vehicles through equipment additions such as arm lift sensors, cameras, etc., and/or modifications to both vehicles and containers to collect telemetry data through sensors such as GPS, RFID etc. Each of these approaches can be expensive and burdensome. Further, there is no highly reliable means of data collection, integration and analysis for these various approaches to determine duration and location of customer service for waste collection.

In addition, collection services on a customer property may include delivering and placement of containers or emptying the containers in the course of servicing the customers when the containers are full.

Large customer properties that are located off-road might not have digitized street networks like roads do, where usual navigation tools can be used to provide turn by turn directions to enable a driver to approach the location of waste containers and perform these collection services.

Improvements in this field are therefore desired.

SUMMARY

In accordance with the presently disclosed subject matter, various illustrative embodiments of a system and method for customer and/or container discovery based on GPS drive path analysis for a waste/recycling service vehicle are described herein.

In certain illustrative embodiments, a method of identifying a residential customer location on a service route for

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a waste or recycling service vehicle is disclosed, which can include: collecting location information for the waste or recycling service vehicle during a plurality of time intervals as the service vehicle travels along the service route, wherein the location information is collected using a global positioning system (GPS) associated with the waste or recycling service vehicle; associating the location information with street network data relating to the service route; identifying a vehicle stop point on the service route based on one or more of: (i) a determination that the location information for two consecutive time intervals is the same or similar; and/or (ii) a determination based on low speed of the vehicle indicating that customer service is being performed; determining whether there is a correspondence between the vehicle stop point and parcel data information relating to the service route; and designating the location of the residential customer at a parcel from the parcel data information corresponding to the vehicle stop point. The street network data can include at least one of a street name, a street type, spatial geometry of the street, location of the vehicle on the street, and a side of the street on which residential waste or recycling services are provided. The parcel data information can include at least one of a parcel owner name, an address of the parcel, a type of land use associated with the parcel, geographic information relating to the spatial geometry of the boundary of the parcel, and geographic information relating to the centroid of the parcel. The method can further include displaying a segment of the service route on a geographic map on a display screen of a computerized user device; and identifying the vehicle stop point on the service route. The method can further include repeating the steps of collecting, associating, identifying, and determining for a plurality of iterations of the service vehicle traveling along the service route; and designating the location of the residential customer at the parcel corresponding to the vehicle stop point based on the plurality of iterations. The time intervals for collecting GPS pings can be ten seconds or less.

In certain illustrative embodiments, a system for identifying a residential customer location on a service route for a waste or recycling service vehicle is disclosed. The system can include a waste or recycling service vehicle; a memory storage area; and a processor in communication with the memory storage area and configured to: collect location information for the waste or recycling service vehicle during a plurality of time intervals as the service vehicle travels along the service route, wherein the location information is collected using a global positioning system (GPS) associated with the waste or recycling service vehicle; associate the location information with street network data relating to the service route; identify a vehicle stop point on the service route based on one or more of: (i) a determination that the location information for two consecutive time intervals is the same or similar; and/or (ii) a determination based on low speed of the vehicle indicating that customer service is being performed; determine whether there is a correspondence between the vehicle stop point and parcel data information relating to the service route; and designate the location of the residential customer at a parcel from the parcel data information corresponding to the vehicle stop point.

In certain illustrative embodiments, a method of identifying a commercial customer location on a service route for a waste or recycling service vehicle is disclosed, which can include: collecting location information for the waste or recycling service vehicle during a plurality of time intervals as the service vehicle travels along the service route, wherein the location information is collected using a global positioning system (GPS) associated with the waste or

recycling service vehicle; associating the location information with street network data relating to the service route; identifying a vehicle stop point on the service route based on a determination that the location information for two consecutive time intervals is the same or similar; associating the vehicle stop point with corresponding customer account information; and designating the location of the commercial customer at the vehicle stop point based on the corresponding customer account information. The street network data can include at least one of a street name, a street type, a longitude or latitude of the street, a location of the vehicle on the street, and a side of the street on which residential waste or recycling services are provided. The method can further include displaying a segment of the service route on a geographic map on a display screen of a computerized user device; and identifying the vehicle stop point on the service route. The method can further include repeating the steps of collecting, associating, identifying, and determining for a plurality of iterations of the service vehicle traveling along the service route; and designating the location of the customer container at the vehicle stop point based on the plurality of iterations. The time intervals can be ten seconds or less. The method can further include verifying the location of the commercial customer at the vehicle stop point based on user data provided by a user on a computing device onboard the service vehicle and relating to the service route.

In certain illustrative embodiments, a system for identifying a commercial customer location on a service route for a waste or recycling service vehicle is provided. The system can include: a waste or recycling service vehicle; a memory storage area; and a processor in communication with the memory storage area and configured to: collect location information for the waste or recycling service vehicle during a plurality of time intervals as the service vehicle travels along the service route, wherein the location information is collected using a global positioning system (GPS) associated with the waste or recycling service vehicle; associate the location information with street network data relating to the service route; identify a vehicle stop point on the service route based on a determination that the location information for two consecutive time intervals is the same or similar; associate the vehicle stop point with corresponding customer account information; and designate the location of the commercial customer at the vehicle stop point based on the corresponding customer account information. The time intervals can be ten seconds or less. The processor can be further configured to: verify the location of the commercial customer at the vehicle stop point based on user data provided by a user on a computing device onboard the service vehicle and relating to the service route.

In certain illustrative embodiments, a method of identifying a residential container location on a service route for a waste or recycling service vehicle is provided, and can include: collecting location information for the waste or recycling service vehicle during a plurality of time intervals as the service vehicle travels along the service route, wherein the location information is collected using a global positioning system (GPS) associated with the waste or recycling service vehicle; associating the location information with street network data relating to the service route; identifying a vehicle stop point on the service route based on one or more of: (i) a determination that the location information for two consecutive time intervals is the same or similar; and/or (ii) a determination based on low speed of the vehicle indicating that customer service is being performed; determining whether there is a correspondence between the

vehicle stop point and parcel data information relating to the service route; designating the location of the residential customer at a parcel from the parcel data information corresponding to the vehicle stop point; and designating a container location for the residential customer at the vehicle stop point based on customer account properties associated with the vehicle stop point, wherein the customer account properties comprise one or more of: (i) geographic location of stop point; or (ii) time of stop point.

In certain illustrative embodiments, a system for identifying a residential container location on a service route for a waste or recycling service vehicle is provided. The system can include: a waste or recycling service vehicle; a memory storage area; and a processor in communication with the memory storage area and configured to: collect location information for the waste or recycling service vehicle during a plurality of time intervals as the service vehicle travels along the service route, wherein the location information is collected using a global positioning system (GPS) associated with the waste or recycling service vehicle; associate the location information with street network data relating to the service route; identify a vehicle stop point on the service route based on one or more of: (i) a determination that the location information for two consecutive time intervals is the same or similar; and/or (ii) a determination based on low speed of the vehicle indicating that customer service is being performed; determine whether there is a correspondence between the vehicle stop point and parcel data information relating to the service route; designate the location of the residential customer at a parcel from the parcel data information corresponding to the vehicle stop point; and designate a container location for the residential customer at the vehicle stop point based on customer account properties associated with the vehicle stop point, wherein the customer account properties comprise one or more of: (i) geographic location of stop point; or (ii) time of stop point.

In certain illustrative embodiments, a method of identifying a commercial container location on a service route for a waste or recycling service vehicle is provided, and can include: collecting location information for the waste or recycling service vehicle during a plurality of time intervals as the service vehicle travels along the service route, wherein the location information is collected using a global positioning system (GPS) associated with the waste or recycling service vehicle; associating the location information with street network data relating to the service route; identifying a vehicle stop point on the service route based on a determination that the location information for two consecutive time intervals is the same or similar; determining whether there is a correspondence between the vehicle stop point and customer accounts information; and designating a container location for the commercial customer at the vehicle stop point based on the customer accounts information. The method can further include: verifying the container location for the commercial customer based on user data provided by a user on a computing device onboard the service vehicle and relating to the service route. The method can further include determining whether the location information corresponds to an out-of-street location that is at least a pre-defined distance from a street segment in the street network data; associating the out-of-street location with a corresponding vehicle stop point; and associating the corresponding vehicle stop point with the container location.

In certain illustrative embodiments, a system for identifying a commercial container location on a service route for a waste or recycling service vehicle is disclosed, and can include: a waste or recycling service vehicle; a memory

storage area; and a processor in communication with the memory storage area and configured to: collect location information for the waste or recycling service vehicle during a plurality of time intervals as the service vehicle travels along the service route, wherein the location information is collected using a global positioning system (GPS) associated with the waste or recycling service vehicle; associate the location information with street network data relating to the service route; identify a vehicle stop point on the service route based on a determination that the location information for two consecutive time intervals is the same or similar; determine whether there is a correspondence between the vehicle stop point and customer accounts information; and designate a container location for the commercial customer at the vehicle stop point based on the customer accounts information. The processor can be further configured to: verify the container location for the commercial customer based on user data provided by a user on a computing device onboard the service vehicle and relating to the service route. The processor can be further configured to: determine whether the location information corresponds to an out-of-street location that is at least a pre-defined distance from a street segment in the street network data; associate the out-of-street location with a corresponding vehicle stop point; and associate the corresponding vehicle stop point with the container location.

In certain illustrative embodiments, a method of collecting off street data to enable providing navigation assistance and special instructions to a waste or recycling service vehicle on a service route for a commercial customer property is provided, the method comprising: collecting off street data and on customer property information including container locations for the waste or recycling service vehicle through a plurality of time intervals as the service vehicle travels on road network, gets off the road network, enters the customer property, travels on the customer property, performs customer service where in the location and drive or travel path geometry trace information is collected using a global positioning system (GPS) feed associated with the waste or recycling service vehicle; enabling the providing of navigation assistance to the vehicle at a street location prior to the vehicle entering the commercial customer property, wherein the navigation assistance is provided by one or more of onboard computer unit (OBU) and navigation software enabling turn by turn directions; identifying when the vehicle has reached an entry location for the commercial customer property; switching from on-road navigation mode to off-road navigation mode; providing navigation assistance including special instructions such as the location of containers on the property to the vehicle when the vehicle on the commercial customer property, wherein the navigation assistance is provided by one or more of onboard computer unit (OBU) with navigation software enabling turn by turn directions utilizing the off street data collected; identifying when the vehicle has reached an exit location for the commercial customer property; switching from off-road navigation mode to on-road navigation mode; and providing navigation assistance to the vehicle at a street location after the vehicle exiting the commercial customer property, wherein the navigation assistance is provided by one or more of onboard computer unit (OBU) with GPS and navigation software enabling navigation assistance.

In certain illustrative embodiments, a system for collecting off street data to enable providing navigation assistance and special instructions to a waste or recycling service vehicle on a service route for a commercial customer property is provided, the system comprising: a waste or recycling

service vehicle; an onboard computer unit (OBU) with GPS and navigation software located on the service vehicle; a memory storage area; and a processor in communication with the memory storage area and configured to: collect off street data and on customer property information including container locations for the waste or recycling service vehicle through a plurality of time intervals as the service vehicle travels on road network, gets off the road network, enters the customer property, travels on the customer property, performs customer service where in the location and drive or travel path geometry trace information is collected using a global positioning system (GPS) feed associated with the waste or recycling service vehicle; enable the providing of navigation assistance to the vehicle at a street location prior to the vehicle entering the commercial customer property, wherein the navigation assistance is provided by one or more of onboard computer unit (OBU) and navigation software enabling turn by turn directions; identify when the vehicle has reached an entry location for the commercial customer property; switch from on-road navigation mode to off-road navigation mode; provide navigation assistance including special instructions such as the location of containers on the property to the vehicle when the vehicle on the commercial customer property, wherein the navigation assistance is provided by one or more of onboard computer unit (OBU) with navigation software enabling turn by turn directions utilizing the off street data collected; identify when the vehicle has reached an exit location for the commercial customer property; switch from off-road navigation mode to on-road navigation mode; and provide navigation assistance to the vehicle at a street location after the vehicle exiting the commercial customer property, wherein the navigation assistance is provided by one or more of onboard computer unit (OBU) with GPS and navigation software enabling navigation assistance.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1A is an image of the projected locations of GPS pings (circles) from a vehicle overlaid on a street network according to embodiments of the present disclosure.

FIG. 1B is an image of locations of GPS pings (squares) from a vehicle along with the projected locations of the GPS pings (circles) overlaid on a street network through projection according to embodiments of the present disclosure.

FIG. 2 is an image of route tracing enabled by projecting GPS ping locations (circles) from a vehicle on a street network with GPS pings (squares) according to embodiments of the present disclosure.

FIG. 3A is an image of locations of GPS pings from a vehicle for commercial customer service to determine stops (represented by groups of 'x' and groups of stars) according to embodiments of the present disclosure.

FIG. 3B is an image of locations of GPS pings from a vehicle for residential customer service to determine stops (triangles) according to embodiments of the present disclosure.

FIG. 4 is an image of a route trace based on locations of GPS pings from a vehicle for a residential route according to embodiments of the present disclosure.

FIG. 5 is an image of stops or interpolated stops (triangles) based on GPS pings for areas of slow vehicle movement for a residential route according to embodiments of the present disclosure.

FIG. 6 is an image of a street network edge represented by a dashed line along with stops or interpolated stops based on

GPS pings from a vehicle for a residential route according to embodiments of the present disclosure.

FIG. 7 is an image of detecting service area based on GPS pings wherein large areas enclosed within dashed lines represent areas with GPS pings where service is detected according to embodiments of the present disclosure.

FIG. 8 is an image of examples of parcel boundaries (black lines) and parcel centroids (dots) according to embodiments of the present disclosure.

FIG. 9 is an image of examples of parcel boundaries (black lines) and parcel centroids (dots) along with stops or interpolated stops based on GPS pings from a vehicle for a residential route according to embodiments of the present disclosure.

FIG. 10 is an image of examples of specific parcel boundaries (black lines) and parcel centroids (dots) to which stops or interpolated stops based on GPS pings from a vehicle are projected to derive customer information for a residential route according to embodiments of the present disclosure.

FIG. 11 is an image of residential services for a collection route GPS trace based on connecting GPS ping locations with both (right and left) sides of street pick up with stops or interpolated stops represented by triangles according to embodiments of the present disclosure.

FIG. 12 is an image of residential services for a collection route GPS trace based on connecting GPS ping locations with one (right) side of street pick up using automated side loading waste services vehicles with stops or interpolated stops represented by triangles according to embodiments of the present disclosure.

FIG. 13 is an image of customers' locations for a commercial route represented by an oval and a stop number inside based on manual driver punches on an onboard unit according to embodiments of the present disclosure.

FIG. 14 is a plot of speed for a service segment according to embodiments of the present disclosure.

FIG. 15 is a plot of speed for a travel segment according to embodiments of the present disclosure.

FIG. 16 is a determination of entry and exit locations for customers in a commercial line of business according to embodiments of the present disclosure.

FIG. 17 is an image of a process flow for enabling customer and container discovery according to embodiments of the present disclosure.

FIG. 18 is a representative examples of a residential waste services environment to be serviced by a waste service vehicle according to embodiments of the present disclosure.

FIG. 19 is a system for data collection and sharing for a waste services provider during performance of a waste service activity in the environments of FIG. 18 according to embodiments of the present disclosure.

FIG. 20 an example of a communications network for a waste services vehicle according to embodiments of the present disclosure.

FIG. 21 is an example of a communications network for a waste services vehicle according to embodiments of the present disclosure.

FIG. 22 is an example of a computing system according to embodiments of the present disclosure.

FIG. 23 is an example of a block diagram for a system for collection of off-street data according to embodiments of the present disclosure.

FIG. 24 is an example of a GPS feed and trace created based on a GPS feed before applying logic for collection of off-street data according to embodiments of the present disclosure.

FIG. 25 is an example of part of a GPS feed and trace, created based on a GPS feed after applying logic for collection of off-street data according to embodiments of the present disclosure.

FIG. 26 is an example of part of a GPS feed and trace, created based on a GPS feed after applying logic for collection of off-street data for three different periods of time (Day 1 shown) according to embodiments of the present disclosure.

FIG. 27 is an example of part of a GPS feed and trace, created based on a GPS feed after applying logic for collection of off-street data for three different periods of time (Day 2 shown) according to embodiments of the present disclosure.

FIG. 28 is an example of part of a GPS feed and trace, created based on a GPS feed after applying logic for collection of off-street data for three different periods of time (Day 3 shown) according to embodiments of the present disclosure.

While the presently disclosed subject matter will be described in connection with the preferred embodiment, it will be understood that it is not intended to limit the presently disclosed subject matter to that embodiment. On the contrary, it is intended to cover all alternatives, modifications, and equivalents, as may be included within the spirit and the scope of the presently disclosed subject matter as defined by the appended claims.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Various illustrative embodiments of a system and method for vehicle drive path analysis for a waste/recycling service vehicle are described herein.

In certain illustrative embodiments, the presently disclosed system and method can enable identifying of the customers and/or container locations for waste and recycling collection routes using vehicle drive path analysis. Some non-limiting properties that can be derived from the analysis include the customer location, address of customers, and/or the locations of containers at the customer location.

The presently disclosed system and method can be utilized with various types of vehicles used for waste and recycling collection routes. Some non-limiting examples of vehicles types can include trucks such as front loader and rear loaders used in commercial lines of business, and automated side loaders and rear loaders used in residential lines of business. Automated side loaders in residential lines of business perform service only on one side of the street (nearest the right side of the vehicle), while rear loaders can perform service on both sides of the street (right and left). All these vehicles can also be equipped with onboard computer units (OBU) that enable driver interactions with the OBU and capturing of GPS data and events corresponding to a service.

The presently disclosed system and method can collect data in a variety of ways. Typically, a service vehicle (depending on vehicle type) can do a "quick stop" (from 3 to 10 seconds) to collect a load in a residential line of business. An average time span between GPS pings from the vehicle currently is configured for approximately 10 seconds. As a result, it is difficult to reliably identify customer stops less than 20 seconds in duration. On the other hand, areas can be detected where the vehicle is moving with low speed (less than 2 mi/hour) and services can be assumed at these locations. GPS ping data enables a determination of

vehicle speed. Furthermore, GPS pings can also be configured to be transmitted at more frequent time span than 10 seconds.

In certain illustrative embodiments, the following primary sources of data can be used. First, GPS data can be received from the vehicle at intervals of 10 seconds or less corresponding to the location of the vehicle on the route. The individual GPS (ping) data is collected at periodic intervals (10 seconds or less) from a vehicle equipped with a GPS enabled device. Second, digital street network map layer data can be obtained in a spatially (geographic information systems (GIS) vector files) enabled format including street segments' geometries, street names, road types, driving restrictions, which can be gathered or ascertained from a variety of sources including, for example, from public domain data sources and/or from commercial map data providers. GIS Spatial vector file formats for map layer data are well known and includes formats such as shapefiles among others. Finally, parcel data can be obtained in GIS spatial vector file format as well and the data may include parcels' geometries representing the boundaries, address and parcel owner information as well the use of the parcel for residential or commercial purposed, which can be gathered and/or ascertained from a variety of sources including, for example, from public domain data sources and/or from commercial data providers.

Optionally, the following additional sources of user data may be used to augment the quality of analysis if available. Data can be collected from manual or automated events (by the vehicle driver) performed through an application residing on an onboard computer unit (OBU) on the vehicle. The OBU application may include route order of stops, customers' orders, and line of business (commercial, residential or roll off) and can enable the driver to status different events from the start of the route to the end of the route. Such events may include leave yard, arrive yard, arrive customer, depart customer, arrive landfill, depart landfill etc. These manual events are highly dependent on the driver performing the status updates at the correct location corresponding to the event and the correct time to make the data useful. Furthermore, for the residential line of business where the number of customer stops range from 800-1200, not all stops may be on the OBU and manual status updates of the events may not always be practical and expected for the driver to perform on account of various considerations including safety. Data for customer's route orders on the OBU may also have information such as the following: customer address; customer geocoded location (longitude, latitude in decimal degrees); number of containers at customer locations; size of containers at container locations; vehicle arrive time (OBU event with geographical position and timestamp); vehicle depart time (OBU event with geographical position and timestamp); vehicle arrive time (OBU event with geographical position and timestamp); and vehicle depart time (OBU event with geographical position and timestamp). Data may also be collected in an automated fashion with modifications to vehicles through equipment additions, and may enable additional data to be collected that can be optionally used, such as time at which the service is performed gathered from the sensor data, and location where there is a confirmed service (latitude, longitude) through the sensor data.

Various methods of detecting customers and/or container locations of customers are also disclosed herein. These methods can detect customers and/or containers belonging to different lines of business including commercial, residential and roll off. The methods also cover how customers are serviced on the street depending on the type of vehicle used

to do service as well performing service for customers on one side or both sides of street. The methods also include accounting for the location of customer's container serviced relative to the customer property, either on the property of the customer or outside the property of customer close to the street curb.

In certain illustrative embodiments, GIS street network data can be utilized. As used herein, a street network is a GIS digital representation of streets and roads. The street network can be in a vector file format. A single segment of street network is called an edge. Street networks in vector file format provide multiple characteristics for edges and their connectivity. Geometry of an edge can be presented as a collection of points (two or more). In addition, a street name, range of house numbers on the street, and postal code can be associated with an edge along with other attributes such as direction of travel (one way, two way), side of the street (left side or right side), travel time, weight, height and other travel restrictions.

In certain illustrative embodiments, GPS (global positioning satellite) data can also be utilized. A GPS ping from a service vehicle enabled by a GPS device can have the following non-limiting list of properties: longitude (decimal degrees); latitude (decimal degrees); timestamp (coordinated universal time—UTC time); speed (miles per hour); and course (direction relative to north, degrees).

FIG. 1A shows an illustrative embodiment of projected GPS pings overlaid on a street network, and FIG. 1B shows GPS pings overlaid on a street network through projection of GPS pings on the street network. As used in the figures herein, squares represent GPS ping locations, circles represent projected GPS ping locations, and triangles represent stops or interpolated stops from GPS pings. GPS ping locations collected from a GPS enabled device on a vehicle do not always align exactly with the vector file formats of streets represented on maps from street networks because of GPS accuracy or the way the GIS street vector files were created or digitized and represented on maps.

In certain illustrative embodiments, geospatial techniques and projecting GPS pings to a street network can be utilized to collect information about street name and street type to associate to a specific GPS ping. Projecting GPS pings or their groups with low speed to street network can yield the following properties: number of GPS pings within a group; total duration of a group of GPS pings with low speed; and distance of a projected GPS ping from the starting point of a street network edge. These properties combined with the properties of the route the truck belongs to could be associated with various factors. For example, they can be associated with a site (hauling company) the route belongs to. They can also be associated with date, such as the date the route was executed and what type of truck was used. In certain illustrative embodiments, multiple raw GPS locations can be represented by a single projected location on the street network.

FIG. 2 shows a route trace enabled by projecting GPS pings on a street network with GPS pings (square), projected location on the street network (circle) and a solid line representing the connection of GPS pings for the route trace. In certain illustrative embodiments, projecting the GPS pings collected from the vehicle onto a close or adjacent street segment enables tracing of the route on the street network. This analysis of GPS ping data and projection to street network in vector format enables various types of data to be determined, such as the speed of the vehicle, direction of travel of the vehicle, if customer pick up or service was performed on one side or both sides of street, side of the

street (left side or right side) the customer is on relative to the vehicle, and the stationary or moving nature of the vehicle.

FIG. 3A shows locations of GPS pings for commercial customer service to determine a customer stop (represented by groups of 'x' and groups of stars), and FIG. 3B shows locations of GPS pings for residential customer service to determine a customer stop (represented by triangles). In certain illustrative embodiments, the sequence of GPS pings with two or more occurrences based on the movement of the vehicle where location (longitude/latitude) is the same, or within very small threshold of distance (fraction of foot) will be identified as a stop. This is appropriate in situations where the time to perform a service for a customer is sufficiently longer to enable capturing multiple GPS pings at the same location. This is typically applicable for servicing a waste/recycling customer in the commercial or industrial (roll off) lines of business where the time to service a stop is typically longer than performing service for residential customer service and the vehicle is stationary for a longer time relative to the residential customer service. As used herein, commercial can include industrial lines of business. However, the methodology can be utilized for residential stops as well, as appropriate under the circumstances.

FIG. 4 shows a route trace, based on GPS pings from a vehicle, FIG. 5 shows triangles for interpolated stops on the route trace of FIG. 4, and FIG. 6 shows a dotted line for a street network edge associated with projected GPS pings on the image of FIG. 5. A sequence of two GPS pings where calculated speed between them is less than some small threshold (fraction of mi/hour) is identified as an interpolated stop. For example, an interpolated stop could be an area of slow vehicle movement of less than 0.5 mi/hour. This is appropriate in situations where the time to perform a service for a customer is shorter to enable capturing multiple GPS pings at the same location. This is typically applicable for servicing a customer in the residential line of business. Stops and interpolated stops represent the customer service location. However, the methodology can be utilized for commercial stops as well, as appropriate under the circumstances.

FIG. 7 shows an example of a method of detecting customer service area. In certain illustrative embodiments, service areas (typically for servicing customers in residential lines of business) can be observed as areas with low (in the range of <0.5 miles an hour) average vehicle speed for significant amount of time (more than 1-3 minutes). Identifying these clusters of GPS pings associated with a slow moving vehicle can indicate that a particular service area is being serviced. Detecting service areas are useful to separate and distinguish the areas where the vehicles are traversing to reach customers to service from the areas where customers are actually being serviced.

FIG. 8 shows examples of parcel data including parcel boundaries (black lines) and parcel centroids (circles). In certain illustrative embodiments, parcels data provides information such as owner name, address of the parcel, type of land use (residential or commercial use as an example) associated with parcel and geographic information such as the spatial geometry and property boundaries of the parcel and centroid of the parcel. Once a stop or interpolated stop is established, associated customer information can be derived from the parcels through a spatial search of parcels relative to the stop or interpolated stop. The association of parcel to the stop can be confirmed through the use of additional information from street network data and parcel data. Various properties can be identified from street net-

work data such as unique identifier (street network) for the street, road type (street network), ranges of house numbers on left and right sides (street network), and edge geometry (street network). In addition, additional properties and information such as owner name, parcel address, parcel centroid location, property type and land use code associated with the parcels can be obtained from the parcel data. These additional properties from street network and parcels can help the confirmation of detecting customers from the stop or interpolated stop. This process can be repeated over multiple days of execution for the same route to establish the location of customer from multiple data points to establish and improve accuracy.

FIG. 9 shows parcel boundaries projected to stops or interpolated stops based on GPS pings from a vehicle for a residential route. The triangles represent stops or interpolated stops from GPS pings on the route trace, and the arrows with dotted lines shows how parcels associated with stops or interpolated stops can be identified by doing a spatial search of parcels from stops or interpolated stop locations.

FIG. 10 is an exploded image of two specific parcel boundaries from FIG. 9. The stops and interpolated stops derived from GPS pings can be projected to parcels to derive customer information from the parcel. The customer information derived can include, for example, owner name, address, land use (commercial, residential), vacant or occupied etc. Black line represents a route trace from GPS pings, the triangles represent stops or interpolated stops from GPS pings and the arrows with dotted lines shows how parcels associated with stops or interpolated stops can be identified by doing a spatial search of parcels from the stops or interpolated stop locations. Gray line represents a segment of street network that represents XYZ street with the address ranges for the street. The even street address number range from 800 to 808 are shown on one side of XYZ street and the odd street address number range 799 to 807 are shown on the other side of XYZ street. The street network data also enables getting the length of the street segment for XYZ street for the address ranges above. In order to associate the stops and interpolate stops to parcels and derive the customer information from the parcels step 1: project the stops or interpolated stops to the street. Projecting enables getting the information such as street name, addresses range of the street, street type, side of street (even or odd address range side) direction of the street (one way, two way), and direction of travel of the truck from street network data. It will also enable estimating the street number corresponding to the stop interpolated from the side of street, street ranges and length of the segment. The triangle location representing stop is projected on to XYZ street and the street number is interpolated from street network based on the location of the stop relative to the length of the street segment and the side of the street (even or odd) the stop and interpolated stop is on. After step 1, stop will have street ranges (800 to 808 for even side of street), street number of XYZ street based on interpolation to the street network. In Step 2, the stop and interpolated stop are projected to the parcel through a spatial search and all parcels for the given street corresponding to the are identified. Spatial search for parcels could produce not only parcels which belong to a particular street, but also parcels which may be in close proximity to that street on both sides. For each Stop or Interpolated stop, find best match between the stop and parcels found through spatial search based on a matching algorithm. The matching algorithm utilizes information from parcels centroids, parcels boundaries, street ranges associated the street the stop is projected to, interpolated street number for the stop, direc-

tion of travel (for even or odd side of street determination) to validate and associate the best matching parcel to the stop. Based on the identified parcel for the stop, information such as parcel address, parcel owner etc. is used to derive the customer name, address and land use associated with the parcel.

FIG. 11 shows an example of a residential services garbage collection route with GPS trace and both sides of street pick up, and FIG. 12 shows an example of a residential services garbage collection route with GPS trace and one (right) side of street pick up using an automated side loader (ASL) vehicle. In certain illustrative embodiments, when a waste or recycling service is performed at a customer location, the sequence of activities during the service usually includes one or more of: approach of vehicle to the container area containing the material to be picked up (trash or recycle); vehicle making a stop; transfer of material from container to the vehicle (or replacement of full container with empty one); and vehicle leaving the container area. During the step of transferring material from container to the vehicle, the service location and time might not have a corresponding GPS ping (or stop, i.e., group of GPS pings) that can be gathered from the vehicle, which exactly match geographical position (latitude, longitude) of a container and time of service. In certain illustrative embodiments, the closest GPS ping (or stop) associated with the time and geographical position of material transfer can be identified as the container location. This can be identified by the corresponding stop location or interpolated stop location. This process can be repeated over multiple days of execution for the same route to establish the location of container from multiple data points to establish and improve accuracy.

In certain illustrative embodiments, the presently disclosed system and method can increase the opportunity for accurate waste collection service area detection at a customer using different sources of data. A primary source of telemetry is the stream of GPS pings associated with GPS enabled equipment (on the collection vehicle). Stops and interpolated stops are derivatives identified from the GPS pings data stream. Customer service could happen at a stop or interpolated stop. Service could happen at a service area. Service for residential customer(s) should be in close proximity to a customer's parcel. The following are examples of the optional data elements that can be used if available. In order to improve the accuracy of positive customer service detection, data from multiple sources as well as multiple occurrences of data over long period of time can be used. A first optional data element in addition to GPS data are manual driver performed events collected from the OBU on the service vehicle. A second optional data element in addition to GPS are events associated with a sensor on the vehicle (if equipped) to aid in the detection of customer service.

In FIG. 11, the class of routes with both sides of street residential service or pick up could be characterized by the following features: Large number of areas where the vehicle slows down; duration of such slowdowns is low (10-20 seconds); and the vehicle travels that stretch of road once for service, and if it travels twice, on the way back there are no vehicle slowdowns for service. In FIG. 12, the class of routes with one side of street residential service or pick up could be characterized by the following features: large number of areas where the vehicle slows down; duration of such slowdowns is low (10-20 seconds); and if the vehicle travels this stretch of road in both directions for service, there are slowdowns on both directions of travel for performing service.

FIG. 13 shows an example of indicators of customers' locations represented by an oval and a stop number inside for a commercial route based on manual driver punches on an onboard unit (OBU).

In certain illustrative embodiments, the presently disclosed system and method can allow for discovery of customers based on GPS analysis for the residential line of business. Sources for analysis can include: GPS pings for a garbage collection route; street network; parcels network; and customer account (optionally if available). In certain illustrative embodiments, discovering of customers for a residential line of business can include the following steps. First, project GPS pings to street network. As a result, each GPS ping will be associated with a street segment, which has one or more of the following properties: street name, longitude/latitude of projected location; % along (0—projected to start of a street segment, 100—projected to end of street segment) the street segment; distance from the GPS ping to projection's location, street type (for example, highway, local street etc., and side of street (left or right)). Second, combine GPS pings into stops (where two or more consecutive in the time GPS pings have the same geographical position (latitude and longitude)). For residential service, because of the small amount of time for duration of service, instead of exact stops only, stops can also be detected in areas of slow vehicle movement (less than 0.5 mi/hour) through interpolation, and these stops will be referenced herein as interpolated stops. Third, detect service area. This is the area with low average speed for a significant amount of time (more than 1-3 minutes). Fourth, detect the closest parcel for each stop (or interpolated stop) based on a spatial search from the stop to the parcel in a service area. A positively identified customer should have a stop and a parcel association and association with customer account. Address and associated information can be derived from parcel data for the customer to compare against the customer account. When the exact geographical position of a container location from GPS data cannot be established, the closest GPS ping (of stop or interpolated stop) associated with time and geographical position of material transfer from container to vehicle can be used to identify the container location. Once the association of a stop with parcel, service area, and customer account are established, properties of the stop or interpolated stop (geographical location, time) can be used as container location. This process can be repeated over multiple days of execution for the same route to establish the location from multiple data points to establish and improve accuracy.

In certain illustrative embodiments, the presently disclosed system and method can also allow for discovery of customers based on GPS analysis for the commercial line of business. Sources for analysis can include: GPS pings for a garbage collection route, street network, and customer accounts if available. In certain illustrative embodiments, the on-board unit (OBU) could be additional source for doing container or customer discovery. The OBU could provide manually generated events such as arrive customer, depart customer and service completion by the driver. The manually generated events can potentially be error prone and can be used as additional information to augment or combined with GPS derived information.

In certain illustrative embodiments, there are two sub-cases for discovery of customers and/or containers based on GPS analysis for the commercial line of business: The first subcase is where container(s) location is inside and on customer property and has container location, entry location

for a property, and exit location for a property; and the second subcase is where the container is on or near the street curb outside property.

In the first subcase, where the container is on property, the discovering of customers for the commercial line of business can include the following steps: Step 1: Project GPS pings to street network; Step 2: Combine GPS pings into stops where two or more consecutive-in-time GPS pings have the same geographical position (latitude and longitude); Step 3: Combine the out of street GPS pings into groups. GPS pings that are projected to the street network and more than a threshold distance (50 feet) from the street network will be classified as "out of street" pings. Step 4: Associate stops in Step 2 with out of street groups in Step 3; Step 5: Detect the customer associated with the stops by interpolating based on the street network or from the closest parcel based on spatial search from the stop. Optionally, validate results obtained from parcel for address and owner name with the customer account or information on the OBU and OBU events if available. Address and associated information can be derived from parcel data for the customer to compare against the customer account; Step 6: Stops, from Step 4, can be represented as container(s) locations. The positively identified container has customer, address and container location associated with it. If the optional OBU data is used, it can be associated with a customer account as well. This process can be repeated over multiple days of execution for the same route to establish the location from multiple data points to establish and improve accuracy

In the second subcase, where the container is outside the property and close to the street, discovering of customers for a commercial line of business include the following steps: Step 1: Project GPS pings to street network; Step 2: Combine GPS pings into stops; Step 3: Associate stops with street network segments; Step 3: Detect customer associated with the stops by interpolating based on the street network or from the closest parcel. Optionally, Validate result with the customer account on the OBU and OBU events if available. Address and associated information can be derived from parcel data for the customer to compare against the customer account; Step 4: Stops associated with street segments can be represented as container locations. The positively identified container has customer account, address and container location. In certain illustrative embodiments, the presently disclosed system and method can be extended beyond discovery of customers and/or containers to include other elements of waste and/or recycling services for commercial, residential and roll off lines of business that are instrumental to enabling routing efficiencies. These can include, for example, entry locations to customer property for service, exit locations from property after service, time spent on customer property for travel and service, and/or distance travelled on customer property before and after service. Discovery of the above elements enables determination of important segments of a route that can improve route planning and generating routing efficiencies. These route segments can include travel and service segments and their associated properties such as start time and end time for each of the segments. During a typical workday, multiple travel and service segments occur on a route, and these segments follow one another.

Large customer properties such as shopping malls, universities, and schools in the commercial line of business may have multiple points of entry or exits. Knowing these entry and exit locations enables a user to develop accurate estimates of travel times on the property and create proper

sequences of stops on the route, as well as provide driving instructions to service the customer.

FIG. 14 shows a plot of speed for a service segment according to certain illustrative embodiments. Relatively small average speed (less than a few miles per hour) and multiple stops are characteristics of a service segment of a route for the residential line of business. Technically, this is a combination of travel segments with low average speed and stops. The service segment of a route can be defined by the duration or time when the vehicle is stationary at customer locations and executes customer services such as picking up the waste or recycle containers to dump material into the vehicle. The service segment of a route can also include the duration of time at a landfill or a transfer station where the vehicle is dumping the material.

FIG. 15 shows a plot of speed for a travel segment according to certain illustrative embodiments. This example is defined by steady speed of the service vehicle for a long period of time and is one characteristic of a travel segment of a route. The travel segment of a route can be defined by the duration when vehicle travels without executing customer services or services at facilities such as landfills or transfer stations. The travel segment of a route can occur on different types of streets. There are two primary types of streets: named or public streets, and unnamed or private streets. Named or public streets are well known streets and roads and can typically found in the street network, while unnamed or private streets may not always be found in the street network. Examples of unnamed or private streets can include alleys, the internal roads in large properties like industrial plants, shopping malls, different type of campuses such as universities, and other types of large communities with internal roads.

FIG. 16 shows a determination of entry and exit locations for customers in a commercial line of business, according to certain illustrative embodiments. A process for determining entry and exit locations for a customer in the commercial line of business can be utilized. In certain illustrative embodiments, the process can include the following steps. First, project GPS pings to the street network. Second, determine stops based on the GPS pings. Third, associate the stops with the street network segments. Fourth, group the street segments for private roads and alleys. Fifth, detect the location where the service vehicle left the public road and entered the private road based on the analysis of GPS pings from the service vehicle in relation to the street network. This location would be the entry point for the customer property. Sixth, detect the location when the service vehicle left the private road and entered the public road based on the analysis of GPS pings in relation to the street network. This would be the exit location of the customer property. This process can be repeated with data from the same route from multiple days for the same customer to establish accuracy. Optionally, if the service vehicle is equipped with an onboard unit (OBU), the detected locations can be validated with OBU events if available.

In certain illustrative embodiments, a process for discovering on property travel time and service times for the commercial line of business can also be utilized. The process can include the following steps. First, project GPS pings to the street network. Second, determine stops based on the GPS pings. Third, associate the stops with street network segments. Fourth, group the street segments for private roads and alleys. Fifth, detect the location where the service vehicle left the public road and enter the private road (or alley) based on the analysis of GPS pings from the service vehicle in relation to the street network. This would be the

entry point for the customer property. Sixth, detect the location where the service vehicle left the private road segment (or alley) and entered the public road based on the analysis of GPS pings in relation to the street network. That would be the exit location of the customer property. The period of time between when the service vehicle entered the property and when it left the property minus the amount of time the service vehicle spent servicing the customer container based on stationary areas associated with the customer service (as described below) would be the on property travel time. This process can be repeated with data from the same route from multiple days for the same customer to establish accuracy. Optionally, if the service vehicle is equipped with an onboard unit (OBU), the detected locations can be validated with OBU events if available.

In certain illustrative embodiments, once the potential service area of a route is detected, travel distance and duration can be calculated in addition to determining customer entry and exit points. An additional step that can be performed as part of the analysis is to search for stationary areas for a service vehicle on a route. A stationary area can be defined as a geographical location where the service vehicle does not display significant movement for a period of time. Stationary area can be determined by GPS pings and the time stamps associated with the GPS pings. Stationary areas could be associated with multiple events on a route as well. These can include, for example, traffic stops, or idle times on a route where the service vehicle is involved in one or more of: idling; while performing customer service; at a vehicle depot; at a landfill; or during the lunch time for a driver on a route.

In certain illustrative embodiments, the process of discovering entry and exit locations for the customer property for residential customers can be very similar to the process for determining locations for commercial customers. In addition, the process can also be extended to groups of residential customers beyond individual customers. This can be useful for determining and associating travel and service times on a route for residential neighborhoods.

In certain illustrative embodiments, the process of discovering on property travel time and customer on property service times for residential customers can be very similar to the discovery process for commercial customers. In addition, the process can also be extended to groups of residential customers beyond individual customers. This can be useful for determining and associating travel and service times on a route for residential neighborhoods.

FIG. 17 shows an illustrative embodiment of a process flow diagram for enabling customer and/or container discovery. FIG. 17 herein illustrates exemplary methods with a plurality of sequential, non-sequential, or sequence independent "steps" as described herein. It should be noted that the methods of FIG. 17 are exemplary and may be performed in different orders and/or sequences as dictated or described herein, and any alternative embodiments thereof. Numerous arrangements of the various "steps" can be utilized. In addition, not all "steps" described herein need be utilized in all embodiments. However, it should be noted that certain particular arrangements of "steps" for the methods described herein are materially distinguishable from and provide distinct advantages over previously known technologies.

The presently disclosed system and method have a number of advantages. For example, this method relies primarily on GPS ping data based on vehicle movement to determine customer and/or container locations. Special adjustments to vehicles or modifications based on sensors, cameras etc. to vehicles are not needed using this method, in certain illus-

trative embodiments. In addition, special adjustments or modifications to containers such as telemetry, cameras are also not needed using this method, in certain illustrative embodiments. With the advent of cheaper GPS devices and cellular data costs, the GPS based approach outlined herein can be less expensive compared to other options.

The presently disclosed system and method can be incorporated into the functional operations of the service vehicles, to communicate and provide routing, optimization and other operational information to vehicle drivers and workers regarding waste/recycling collection and delivery routes. This can occur prior to beginning operations and/or on an ongoing, real time basis. As a result, the disclosed subject matter has a variety of practical applications, as well as provides solutions to a number of technological and business problems of the prior art.

Service vehicles used in the waste collection, delivery, disposal and recycling industry often have on-board computers (OBUs), location devices and interior and exterior safety and non-safety related cameras installed on the exterior and interior thereof. These devices can provide waste services providers and their field managers with information related to the service vehicle, location of the service vehicle, service confirmation, customer service issues, service routing issues, customer site information and safety issues and concerns, as well as provide vehicle drivers and workers with information relating to collection and delivery routes.

For example, FIG. 18 is an example of a services environment 10 where the presently disclosed system and method can be utilized. A service vehicle 15 is configured to provide services to customers, which can include typical lines of waste industry services such as waste collection and transport and/or recycling for commercial, residential and/or industrial. Service vehicle 15 collects waste or recyclables from a plurality of containers 20 which will typically be assigned to, or associated with, specific customers registered to a waste collection company. The presently disclosed system and method can be incorporated into the functional operations of service vehicle 15, to communicate and provide routing, optimization and other operational information to vehicle drivers and workers regarding waste/recycling collection and delivery routes, either prior to beginning operations and/or on an ongoing, real time basis.

FIG. 19 illustrates a high-level overview of a system and network according to various illustrative embodiments herein. The components and general architecture of the system and network may be adapted for use in the specific services environment of FIG. 18. The system can include one or more data sources 30 and a central server 35. Data sources 30 may be, for example, devices configured for capturing and communicating operational data indicative of one or more operational characteristics. Data sources 30 are configured to communicate with central server 35 by sending and receiving operational data over a network 45 (e.g., the Internet, an Intranet, or other suitable network). Central server 35 may be configured to process and evaluate operational data received from data sources 30 in accordance with user input received via a user interface provided on a local or remote computer.

In the illustrative embodiment shown in FIGS. 20-22, a system and network are provided wherein a communications device 50 can be disposed on waste service vehicle 15. Communications device 50 and central server 35 are configured to communicate with each other via a communications network 45 (e.g., the Internet, an Intranet, a cellular network, or other suitable network). In addition, communications device 50 and central server 35 are configured for

storing data to an accessible central server database **96** located on, or remotely from, central server **35**. In the description provided herein, the system may be configured for managing and evaluating the operation of a large fleet of service vehicles **15**. As such, in certain illustrative embodiments, the system may further comprise a plurality of communications devices **50**, each being associated with one of a plurality of waste service vehicles **15**.

In certain illustrative embodiments, the communication between communications device **50** provided on-board service vehicle **15** and central server **35** may be provided on a real time basis such that during the collection/delivery route, data is transmitted between each service vehicle **15** and central server **35**. Alternatively, communication device **50** may be configured to temporarily store or cache data during the route and transfer the data to the central server **35** on return of service vehicle **15** to the location of the collection/delivery company.

In certain illustrative embodiments, as illustrated in FIG. **20**, service vehicle **15** can also include an onboard computer **60** and a location device **65**. Onboard computer **60** can be, for example, a standard desktop or laptop personal computer (“PC”), or a computing apparatus that is physically integrated with vehicle **15**, and can include and/or utilize various standard interfaces that can be used to communicate with location device **65** and optical sensor **70**. Onboard computer **60** can also communicate with central server **35** via a communications network **45** via communication device **50**. In certain illustrative embodiments, service vehicle **15** can also include one or more optical sensors **70** such as video cameras and relating processors for gathering image and other data at or near the customer site.

Location device **65** can be configured to determine the location of service vehicle **15** always while service vehicle **15** is inactive, in motion and operating and performing service related and nonservice related activities. For example, location device **65** can be a GPS device that can communicate with the collection/delivery company. A satellite **75** or other communications device can be utilized to facilitate communications. For example, location device **65** can transmit location information, such as digital latitude and longitude, to onboard computer **60** via satellite **75**. Thus, location device **65** can identify the location of service vehicle **15**, and therefore the location of the customer site where container **20** is located, after vehicle **15** has arrived at the customer site.

In the illustrative embodiment of FIGS. **21-22**, an exemplary computer system and associated communication network is shown. In certain illustrative embodiments, central server **35** can be configured to receive and store operational data (e.g., data received from waste services vehicle **15**) and evaluate the data to aid waste services company in improving operational efficiency. Central server **35** can include various means for performing one or more functions in accordance with embodiments of the present invention, including those more particularly shown and described herein; however, central server **35** may include alternative devices for performing one or more like functions without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

In certain illustrative embodiments, central server **35** can include standard components such as processor **75** and user interface **80** for inputting and displaying data, such as a keyboard and mouse or a touch screen, associated with a standard laptop or desktop computer. Central server **35** also includes a communication device **85** for wireless communication with onboard computer **60**.

Central server **35** may include software **90** that communicates with one or more memory storage areas **95**. Memory storage areas **95** can be, for example, multiple data repositories which stores pre-recorded data pertaining to a plurality of customer accounts. Such information may include customer location, route data, items expected to be removed from the customer site, and/or billing data. For example, using the location (e.g., street address, city, state, and zip code) of a customer site, software **90** may find the corresponding customer account in memory storage areas **95**. Database **96** for data storage can be in memory storage area **95** and/or supplementary external storage devices as are well known in the art.

While a “central server” is described herein, a person of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that embodiments of the present invention are not limited to a client-server architecture and that the server need not be centralized or limited to a single server, or similar network entity or mainframe computer system. Rather, the server and computing system described herein may refer to any combination of devices or entities adapted to perform the computing and networking functions, operations, and/or processes described herein without departing from the spirit and scope of embodiments of the present invention.

In certain illustrative embodiments, a system is provided for optimizing waste/recycling collection and delivery routes for waste/recycling service vehicles. Central server **35** may utilize memory storage area **95** and processor **75** in communication with memory storage area **95**, and/or onboard computer **60** can be utilized, to perform the method steps described herein and communicate results to/from the vehicle, prior to and/or in real time during performance of the waste/recycling service activity.

In certain illustrative embodiments, software can execute the flow of one or more of the method steps of FIG. **17** herein, or any of the other method or process steps described herein, while interacting with the various system elements of FIGS. **18-22**.

In certain illustrative embodiments, the presently disclosed systems and methods can also be utilized in connection with a centralized platform for remote, real-time customer management of waste/recycling pick-up and collection services. In certain illustrative embodiments, a system for facilitating selection and monitoring of waste/recycling pick-up and collection services by a customer can include a memory, an electronic viewing portal with a display for viewing by a customer, and a processor coupled to the memory programmed with executable instructions. The processor and/or memory can be configured to receive identifying information from a customer via the electronic viewing portal, associate the customer with stored customer information based on the identifying information, determine (using back end functionality) one or more waste/recycling pick-up and collection service options for the customer based on the stored customer information, which can include the use of customer and/or container discovery information based on GPS drive path analysis for a waste/recycling service vehicle as described in the various embodiments herein, display the one or more waste/recycling pick-up and collection service options on the display, receive instructions from the customer regarding which of the waste/recycling pick-up and collection service options to perform, and display the status of the performance of the one or more waste/recycling pick-up and collection service options on the electronic viewing portal for viewing by the customer. The customer facing applications may be present in the form of downloadable applications installable and executable on

user devices, e.g., “electronic viewing portals” such as computers, smartphones, or tablets. Additionally (or alternatively), the customer applications may be available as one or more web applications, accessible via a client device having an internet browser. The customer facing applications can utilize customer service digitalization and allow a customer to select and/or monitor waste/recycling pick-up and collection services from the provider on a real-time basis, and the customer offerings can be based, in whole or in part, upon back end functionality that includes the use of customer and/or container discovery information based on GPS drive path analysis for a waste/recycling service vehicle, as described in the various embodiments herein. The presently disclosed systems and methods can also be utilized in connection with a centralized platform for remote, real-time customer management of other services besides waste/recycling pick-up and collection services, such as, for example, package delivery, logistics, transportation, food delivery, ride hailing, couriers, freight transportation, etc.

In certain illustrative embodiments, the presently disclosed subject matter also relates to a system and method for data collection for service planning and/or service execution and asset management for providing off-road customer services.

More specifically, the presently disclosed subject matter relates to service planning and execution, as well as container management, for waste and recycling collection vehicles, although use with other types of services provided at an off-road customer location are also within the presently disclosed scope, and as such, the present disclosure should not be seen as unduly limiting to only waste and recycling collection.

In order to efficiently perform services for customers such as, e.g., waste and recycling collection services, at least two systems and/or approaches are needed to work together. The first is the collection of off-street data and the second is navigation to enable providing of directions to the vehicle driver utilizing the collected off-street data for performing service efficiently on a customer property.

Collection of Off-Street Data

In certain illustrative embodiments, large customer properties for waste and recycling collection might not have digitized street network capability where usual navigation tools can be used to provide on-site turn by turn directions to the driver to enable the driver to approach waste containers on the property to perform collection service. Collection services on the property may include delivering and placement of the containers or emptying the containers in the course of servicing the customers when the containers are full.

In order to provide for efficiently servicing the containers, additional information and data about available drive paths on the customer property and away from the digitized on road street network, as well as special instructions about efficiently and safely way to navigate through such properties are needed for asset management, service planning and execution.

In certain illustrative embodiments, the presently disclosed system and method for off-street data collection can include (i) a GPS receiver, (ii) a leave-enter street data network switch, (iii) a data collection module, (iv) storage means for off-street data, and/or (v) additional sensor(s) for asset detection and/or additional voice recorder. The storage means for off-street data is capable of storing the spatial geometry comprising of the sequence of latitude, longitude locations of one or more travel path(s).

In certain illustrative embodiments, storage of off-street data could store one or more of the following: (i) entry location(s), (ii) exit location(s), (iii) container location(s), (iv) verbal instruction for navigation, (v) information about hazards, and (vi) visual snapshot for off-street area, etc.

The information gathering can include, for example, information regarding the on-road street network switch which recognizes the moment the truck leaves the digitized street network and enters the available off-street network area. Also, while the vehicle is within an off-street network area, the collection module gathers information from the GPS receiver and available sensors for asset management and voice recorder, while the collection module saves all the information to storage for off-street data. Once the vehicle returns to the street network, the collection module stops collection and real-time saving of the information, although the information is stored in a database for future use.

FIG. 23 shows an illustrative embodiment of a system and related method for communication for a vehicle 2 equipped by on-board computer 3, GPS receiver 4, wireless communication system 5, and optionally arm lift sensor 6 with remote server 7. Various components and their functionality in the system in FIG. 23 can be analogized with like components and their functionality in the various system elements of FIGS. 18-22, for purposes of this disclosure.

In certain illustrative embodiments, remote server 7 has a port for accepting data from vehicle(s) 7, street network storage 8, off-street decision switch 9, and off-street data storage 100. There is a GPS feed from a fleet of GPS satellites 1, and data from arm lift sensor goes to on-board computer 3. On-board computer 3 sends collected data through a wireless communication system 5 to remote server 7. Off-street decision switch 9 processes data from vehicle(s) and makes decisions such as calculating if GPS packet is on-street or off-street. Off-street GPS series (multiple GPS messages) with other data, coming from vehicles is stored to off-street data storage. Other data could include locations of assets such as containers, outline of customer property, verbal instructions, etc. Off-street decision switch 9 could process real-time GPS feed or GPS historic values for a vehicle. The decision switch 9 finds (by projecting the GPS locations to) the closest available street network segment for each GPS packet. Once the distance between GPS location and its projection to street network is greater than a pre-defined threshold, it recognizes entry point to a property, it redirects GPS and other data to off-street data storage 100. When distance between GPS location and its projection to street network becomes less than the pre-determined threshold, it recognizes exit point from a property, it stops collecting off-street data. Until decision switch 9 recognizes exit point, it projects GPS pings to a segment of street network where entry point was detected. All the GPS locations between entry point of the property and exit point of the property are combined into on-property travel path. The time interval between exit and entry points of the property defines the on-property travel time the time taken by the vehicle in the service of the customer location. The entry point, exit point, on-property travel time, on-property travel distance are stored to off-street data storage 100 with other information collected for a given customer/property/area. Such information includes, additionally, the location of the container locations on the customer property.

FIG. 24 shows an example of GPS feed and trace, created based on that GPS feed before applying off-street detection logic.

FIG. 25 shows an example of GPS feed and trace, created based on that GPS feed after applying off-street detection logic.

FIG. 26, FIG. 27 and FIG. 28 each show parts of GPS feed and trace, created based on these feeds after applying logic for collection off-street for three different periods of time (e.g., different days).

Off Street Navigation

In certain illustrative embodiments, additional determinations are needed regarding vehicle navigation, i.e., the process of ascertaining one's position and planning and following a route for an off-street property. The presently disclosed system and method also relate to a garbage truck navigation for area(s) where street network is not available or special restrictions for garbage truck travel should be applied to enable a driver to navigate to a container for performing service.

Large customer properties might not have street network where usual navigation tools can be used for providing turn by turn directions to the driver. Also, even if street network is available the navigation devices may lack providing special instructions about efficient and safe ways to navigate through such properties and performing the service. Such special instructions can include turn by turn directions on the property to enable navigation to the location of one or many containers on the property. In certain illustrative embodiments, during collection of off street data a leave-enter street network switch recognizes the moment of leaving the street network and entering the available off-street area. The collection of off street data enables the navigation of the vehicle on the property. While the vehicle is within the off-street area, the navigation device provides navigation instructions specific for a given off-street area to safely navigate through the area for performing a garbage service. Once the vehicle returns to the street network, the navigation device goes to normal navigation mode. The combination of navigation instructions on the street network and the off street network on the customer property enables the driver to safely and efficiently perform the desired customer service.

In certain illustrative embodiments, a system and method for providing off street navigation can include a navigation device, a leave-enter street network switch, and storage for off-street data. The navigation device provides visual or/and sound commands to support navigation of a vehicle to a target location. Storage of off-street data keeps information regarding geometry of a path(s). Storage of off-street data could store one or all of these: entry location(s), exit location(s), verbal instruction for navigation, information about hazards, visual snapshot for off-street area, etc.

Those skilled in the art will appreciate that certain portions of the subject matter disclosed herein may be embodied as a method, data processing system, or computer program product. Accordingly, these portions of the subject matter disclosed herein may take the form of an entirely hardware embodiment, an entirely software embodiment, or an embodiment combining software and hardware. Furthermore, portions of the subject matter disclosed herein may be a computer program product on a computer-usable storage medium having computer readable program code on the medium. Any suitable computer readable medium may be utilized including hard disks, CD-ROMs, optical storage devices, or other storage devices. Further, the subject matter described herein may be embodied as systems, methods, devices, or components. Accordingly, embodiments may, for example, take the form of hardware, software or any combination thereof, and/or may exist as part of an overall

system architecture within which the software will exist. The present detailed description is, therefore, not intended to be taken in a limiting sense.

As used herein, the phrase "at least one of" preceding a series of items, with the terms "and" or "or" to separate any of the items, modifies the list as a whole, rather than each member of the list (i.e., each item). The phrase "at least one of" allows a meaning that includes at least one of any one of the items, and/or at least one of any combination of the items, and/or at least one of each of the items. By way of example, the phrases "at least one of A, B, and C" or "at least one of A, B, or C" each refer to only A, only B, or only C; any combination of A, B, and C; and/or at least one of each of A, B, and C. As used herein, the term "A and/or B" means embodiments having element A alone, element B alone, or elements A and B taken together.

While the disclosed subject matter has been described in detail in connection with a number of embodiments, it is not limited to such disclosed embodiments. Rather, the disclosed subject matter can be modified to incorporate any number of variations, alterations, substitutions or equivalent arrangements not heretofore described, but which are commensurate with the scope of the disclosed subject matter.

Additionally, while various embodiments of the disclosed subject matter have been described, it is to be understood that aspects of the disclosed subject matter may include only some of the described embodiments. Accordingly, the disclosed subject matter is not to be seen as limited by the foregoing description, but is only limited by the scope of the claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of providing navigation instructions to a service vehicle and navigating the service vehicle on a service route for collecting waste or recyclable material, the method comprising:

collecting GPS location information for the service vehicle;

tracking a location of the service vehicle using the GPS location information;

projecting the GPS location information to a street network map;

navigating the service vehicle by providing on-street navigation instructions to the service vehicle before the service vehicle enters a customer property;

determining, using a computing device, that the service vehicle has entered the customer property based on a distance between the GPS location information for the service vehicle prior to entering a customer location and the projection of the GPS location information to the street network map, wherein the determining comprises designating an entry location for the customer property when the distance between the GPS location information for the service vehicle and the projection of the GPS location information to the street network map is greater than a predefined threshold amount;

after determining that the service vehicle has entered the customer property, navigating the service vehicle, for the service vehicle to collect waste or recyclable material from one or more waste or recycling containers, by providing navigation instructions to the service vehicle on the customer property using off-street data accessed from a storage module, wherein the off-street data comprises a travel path for the service vehicle on the customer property and a location of the one or more waste or recycling containers to be serviced on the customer property;

determining, using the computing device, when the service vehicle has exited the customer property based on a distance between the GPS location information for the service vehicle after entering the customer location and the projection of the GPS location information to the street network map, wherein the determining comprises designating an exit location for the customer property when the distance between the GPS location information for the service vehicle and the projection of the GPS location information to the street network map is less than the predefined threshold amount; and after determining that the service vehicle has exited the customer property, navigating the service vehicle by providing on-street navigation instructions to the service vehicle after the service vehicle exits the customer property.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising storing information gathered to determine that the service vehicle has entered the customer property as additional off-street data in the storage module prior to providing navigation instructions to the service vehicle on the customer property.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the determining, using the computing device, that the service vehicle has entered the customer property is further performed by processing data from the service vehicle and calculating whether a GPS packet is on-street or off-street.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the determining, using the computing device, that the service vehicle has exited the customer property is further performed by processing data from the service vehicle and calculating whether a GPS packet is on-street or off-street.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the off-street data further comprises information regarding safety hazards on the travel path.

6. A system for providing navigation instructions to a service vehicle and navigating the service vehicle on a service route for collecting waste or recyclable material, the system comprising:

- an onboard computing device on the service vehicle;
- a memory storage area; and
- a processor in communication with the memory storage area and configured to:
 - collect GPS location information for the service vehicle;
 - track a location of the service vehicle using the GPS location information;
 - project the GPS location information to a street network map;
 - navigate the service vehicle by providing on-street navigation instructions to the service vehicle before the service vehicle enters a customer property;
 - determine that the service vehicle has entered the customer property based on a distance between the GPS location information for the service vehicle prior to entering a customer location and the projection of the GPS location information to the street

network map by designating an entry location for the customer property when the distance between the GPS location information for the service vehicle and the projection of the GPS location information to the street network map is greater than a predefined threshold amount;

after determining that the service vehicle has entered the customer property, navigate the service vehicle, for the service vehicle to collect waste or recyclable material from one or more waste or recycling containers, by providing navigation instructions to the service vehicle on the customer property using off-street data accessed from a storage module, wherein the off-street data comprises a travel path for the service vehicle on the customer property and a location of the one or more waste or recycling containers to be serviced on the customer property;

determine when the service vehicle has exited the customer property based on a distance between the GPS location information for the service vehicle after entering the customer location and the projection of the GPS location information to the street network map by designating an exit location for the customer property when the distance between the GPS location information for the service vehicle and the projection of the GPS location information to the street network map is less than the predefined threshold amount; and

after determining that the service vehicle has exited the customer property, navigate the service vehicle by providing on-street navigation instructions to the service vehicle after the service vehicle exits the customer property.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the processor is further configured to store information gathered to determine that the service vehicle has entered the customer property as additional off-street data in the storage module prior to providing navigation instructions to the service vehicle on the customer property.

8. The system of claim 6, wherein the processor is configured to determine that the service vehicle has entered the customer property further by processing data from the service vehicle and calculating whether a GPS packet is on-street or off-street.

9. The system of claim 6, wherein the processor is configured to determine that the service vehicle has exited the customer property further by processing data from the service vehicle and calculating whether a GPS packet is on-street or off-street.

10. The system of claim 6, wherein the processor is further configured to process real-time GPS feed or GPS historic values for the service vehicle.

11. The system of claim 6, wherein the off-street data further comprises information regarding safety hazards on the travel path.

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